United Nations

A/53/PV.78

General Assembly
Fifty-third Session

Official Records

78th plenary meeting
Thursday, 3 December 1998, 3.00 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Opertti .... (Uruguay)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Mra (Myanmar), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 18

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/53/23 (Parts I–IX))

Reports of the Secretary-General (A/53/368, A/53/130 and Corr.1)

Draft resolutions (A/53/L.58, A/53/23 (Part II), Chapter III, para. 12)

The Acting President: I call on the Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to introduce the Committee's report.

Mr. Mekdad (Syrian Arab Republic), Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: I have the honour to present to the General Assembly for its consideration the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, covering its work during 1998, as contained in document A/53/23, parts I–IX.

The report is being submitted in accordance with paragraph 11 of resolution 52/78, regarding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the full implementation of the Declaration and, in particular, to formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism. It also called upon the Committee to continue to examine the implementation of the Declaration by Member States, pay special attention to the small Territories, particularly by dispatching regular visiting missions, to enable them to exercise their right to self-determination and independence, and to enlist worldwide support for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration. Furthermore, in keeping with General Assembly resolution 46/181, entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", the Special Committee was also mandated to undertake a series of activities, including organizing seminars in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions, alternately, during the Decade.

During the last year, the Special Committee held extensive consultations, keeping in mind the particular and specific requests of the General Assembly just

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outlined. The Committee reviewed the implementation of the Declaration with a view to formulating a series of recommendations to enhance the pace of decolonization and promote political, economic, social and educational advancement of the peoples in the remaining Territories. To do so, it acceded to the requests of Spain to participate in its proceedings on the question of Gibraltar, of Brazil and Sao Tome and Principe in the consideration of the question of East Timor, and of the delegations of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay in the proceedings on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

With regard to the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable, the Committee decided to continue to review this issue at its next session, subject to any directives given by the General Assembly.

Having resolved to rationalize the organization of its work, the Committee kept its formal meetings to a minimum. The members held 17 meetings between February and May and also convened a session from 29 June to 13 July. It maintained the arrangement by which its Subcommittee and its Working Group were replaced by an Open-ended Bureau. In the time-frame agreed to, the Special Committee discharged the responsibilities assigned by the Assembly and submitted its recommendations on all items entrusted to it, which are contained in parts II–IX of the report before the General Assembly contained in document A/53/23.

In particular, I would like to draw the Assembly's attention to document A/53/23, part II, paragraph 12, which contains the draft resolution on the dissemination of information on decolonization, adopted by the Special Committee and recommended to the General Assembly for adoption. The Special Committee also considered carrying out a critical review of its work and may wish to convene a meeting in the near future to do so. The Acting Chairman presented a paper, which is annexed to the report of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/L.1886), to facilitate the consultations on the intended approach for such an assessment.

By adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work, the Special Committee decided to take up as appropriate an item entitled "Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico", and to consider that issue in its plenary. A number of recommendations were received from organizations that expressed their wish to be heard by the Special Committee on this subject. This request was acceded to by the Committee, and on 10 and 11 August 1998, the Committee heard representatives of 29 organizations, as detailed in the report presented to the Assembly. Following the consideration of this item, the Committee adopted a draft resolution, contained in document A/AC.109/2131, which, *inter alia*, reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence, and expresses the hope that the Government of the United States will assume its responsibility of expediting this process. It also requests the Rapporteur to present a report to the Special Committee next year on the implementation of this draft resolution.

The Special Committee also decided to consider an item entitled "Matters relating to the small Territories" and took into account the provisions of relevant resolutions — including resolution 52/78, paragraph 11 (c), which requests the Special Committee to pay special attention to the small Territories, in particular through the dispatch of regular visiting missions. During the period under review, this question was given extensive consideration, as noted in chapters X to XII of the present report.

In regard to its programme of work for 1999, the Special Committee considered the question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters, as authorized by the General Assembly. It decided that it would consider accepting invitations as might be received in 1999, and thereafter, request the Secretary-General to seek the necessary budgetary provision in accordance with established procedure. Following the guidelines on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution 52/214 of 22 December 1997, and taking into account its probable workload for 1999, the Special Committee decided to strive to fulfil its mandate by keeping its meetings to a minimum. This would entail holding its plenary meetings in February/March 1999 and up to 30 meetings in June/July. The Bureau expects to hold some 20 meetings between February and July 1999. This would not preclude any ad hoc meetings that may be warranted and is subject to any directives given by the General Assembly.

I draw the Assembly's attention to the question of cooperation and participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee. I would like to report that the delegations of New Zealand and Portugal continued to participate in the related aspect of the Committee's work and that the delegation of France participated in the consideration of the question of New Caledonia. Though the delegations of the United

Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, did not participate in the work of the Committee, as a result of informal consultations held during the fifty-first session of the General Assembly and the adoption of resolutions 51/224 and 52/77 on small Territories, both administering Powers expressed their desire to continue an informal dialogue with the Special Committee.

The Special Committee continues to call upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving visiting missions in the Territories under their administration. The Special Committee recommends that the General Assembly again request the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate.

The Special Committee has also decided that the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in its work should continue. Further, it recommends to the General Assembly that the Committee should continue to be represented at seminars, meetings and conferences organized by United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of decolonization.

During the year, the Chairman of the Special Committee held consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council to consider appropriate measures for coordinating policies and activities of the specialized agencies in implementing the relevant resolutions; this is accounted for in chapter VII of the present report. In its consideration of the Territories concerned, the Special Committee took into account the relevant resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights, including resolutions on the question of Western Sahara and the situation in East Timor. It also continued to follow the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and to monitor related developments in the Territories.

The Committee maintained contact with the Organization of African Unity and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) during the year, and it continues to follow the work of the South Pacific Forum and the activities of non-governmental organizations which have a special interest in decolonization. The Acting Chairman represented the Special Committee at the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in May as well as the Ministerial Meeting of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban in August.

The Special Committee held a regional seminar at Nadi, Fiji, in June 1998 in implementation of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. The outcome is presented in chapter II of the report. The question-and-answer session promoted at that meeting was particularly useful in promoting an open and frank discussion of issues. The Committee has also adopted a resolution which makes recommendations to the General Assembly on the question of the publicity to be given to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, outlined in chapter III of this report.

In accordance with its mandate, the Special Committee intends to continue to pursue the speedy and unconditional end of colonialism in all its forms during 1999. It will endeavour to examine its own work critically and assess the effectiveness of its activities and the areas in which it can improve. In particular, it is gratified that the informal consultations held with the administering Powers — the United Kingdom and the United States — and the European Union, concluded in an agreement on the consolidated draft resolution on small Territories and the draft resolution on economic and other activities which affect the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, respectively. The Assembly may wish to renew its appeal to all States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to comply with the various requests addressed to them by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

The Special Committee has approved a tentative programme of meetings for 1999 and commends it to the Assembly for approval. It also suggests that the Assembly would examine the question of the implementation of the Declaration by taking into account the various recommendations reflected in the present report and would endorse the proposals outlined in order to enable the Special Committee to carry out the tasks it envisages for 1999.

As the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism approaches its last two years, much has been achieved, but much remains to be done. The Special Committee will make a renewed and concerted effort to meet its goals by working closely with the Territories, the administering Powers, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, the non-governmental organizations and the wider international community.

We call upon each of them to cooperate fully with the Special Committee to formulate concrete mechanisms, appropriate procedures and legislation to complete the processes required for the implementation of the Declaration by the populations of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories by the end of this decade and achieve our ultimate goal of ushering in, in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism.

Before concluding, allow me to express to all the members of the Special Committee and in particular Acting Chairman Ambassador Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla of Cuba, as well as Vice-Chairman Ambassador Moctar Ouane of Mali, my appreciation for their assistance, support and cooperation.

Finally, may I extend the Committee's appreciation and gratitude also to the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, for giving priority to and establishing a stand-alone Decolonization Unit in the Department of Political Affairs and giving it substantive responsibilities for the programme on decolonization. I also thank Ms. Maria Maldonado, Chief of the Decolonization Unit, as well as Mr. Mohammad Sattar, Secretary of the Special Committee, along with their respective substantive and technical secretariats, in both the departments of Political Affairs and General Assembly Affairs, for their professional advice and assistance in facilitating my task as Rapporteur.

On behalf of the Committee, I commend the report to the attention of the General Assembly.

The Acting President: I now call on the representative of Cuba to introduce draft resolution A/53/L.58.

Mr. Rodríguez Parrilla (Cuba) (*interpretation from Spanish*): It is a great honour for me to address the General Assembly as it begins its consideration of the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In my capacity as Acting Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples during the current year, I have been privileged to serve the Special Committee and conduct its deliberations, the results of which are duly reflected in the report contained in document A/53/23, parts I-IX.

The General Assembly has just heard a statement by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, introducing the report of the Special Committee. In its report, the Special Committee has made a number of recommendations to the Assembly for its consideration and action. These recommendations represent the considered contribution of the Committee to the efforts of the United Nations to eradicate the last remnants of colonialism from the face of the earth.

Today I am speaking, on behalf of the sponsors, to introduce draft resolution A/53/L.58 for consideration by the General Assembly. This draft resolution addresses the issue of the implementation of the Declaration adopted by the Assembly 38 years ago and refers specifically to the responsibility entrusted by the Assembly to the Special Committee for monitoring the fulfilment of the letter and the spirit of the Declaration by the parties concerned.

When the Special Committee was established by General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI), the Assembly requested it to examine the application of the Declaration, to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of the implementation and to report thereon to the Assembly. The Assembly also directed the Special Committee to carry out its task by using all the means at its disposal within the framework of the procedures and modalities that it adopted for the proper discharge of its functions. The Assembly invited the authorities concerned to afford the Special Committee their fullest cooperation in carrying out its tasks and requested the specialized agencies concerned to assist the Special Committee in its work within their respective fields.

Thirty-eight years later, the Special Committee continues to carry out conscientiously the mandate it received from the Assembly in 1961. Despite the significant progress achieved, the decolonization process has not been concluded.

By the terms of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would recall and reaffirm previous resolutions on decolonization, including resolution 43/47, which declared the decade that began in 1990 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence. The Assembly would also reaffirm its determination to continue to take all steps necessary to bring about the complete, speedy and unconditional eradication of colonialism and the faithful observance by all States of the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United

Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

By adopting this draft resolution, the Assembly would approve the report of the Special Committee covering its work during 1998 and the programme of work envisaged for 1999. In this connection, the Special Committee would continue to seek suitable means of ensuring the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and also carry out actions approved by the Assembly in connection with the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. The Special Committee would continue to formulate proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and would report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

The Special Committee has indicated that it will endeavour to look at its own work critically, carrying out an assessment of the effectiveness of its activities and the areas in which it can make improvements. Such a review is made all the more necessary as we approach the end of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. The commitment of the Special Committee and the United Nations to fulfilling the aims of the Decade so as to achieve a world free of colonial domination must be expressed in concrete, purposeful efforts. The principles of the Charter regarding Non-Self-Governing Territories are as relevant today as they were at the inception of the United Nations, and great strides have already been made in the implementation of the 1960 Declaration. Nevertheless, more can be done in the future to accelerate the process of decolonization. The goals of the 1960 Declaration are achievable, and they require the cooperation of the administering Powers with the Special Committee. We hope that in 1999 such cooperation will take us a long way towards achieving those goals.

By the terms of the draft resolution, the Special Committee would also continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, in particular by dispatching visiting missions to secure first-hand information and to ascertain the wishes and aspirations of these Territories' inhabitants. It would also take steps to enlist worldwide support from Governments and from national and international organizations for the achievement of the objectives of the 1960 Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

By the terms of the draft resolution, the Assembly would call upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and continue to receive visiting missions to the Territories. The Assembly would also call upon the administering Powers that have not participated in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its 1999 session. I should like to point out that during 1998 New Zealand and Portugal continued their cooperation with the Special Committee. Furthermore, for the first time, France attended meetings of the Special Committee and provided valuable information regarding the historic signing of the Nouméa Accord and its implications for New Caledonia. As Acting Chairman of the Special Committee, I carried out consultations with the administering Powers regarding sending future visiting missions to the Territories, and I remain hopeful that our future dialogue with the administering Powers will include an agreement on this point.

On many occasions the Special Committee has expressed its readiness to engage in constructive dialogue with the administering Powers, as it considers that their cooperation is indispensable for progress towards the full implementation of the 1960 Declaration. During 1998 members of the Special Committee had the opportunity to hold informal consultations that proved useful in reaching significant agreed recommendations that were submitted to the General Assembly, including recommendations regarding New Caledonia, Tokelau and Guam.

Draft resolution A/53/L.58 also requests the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to provide economic, social and other assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Such assistance is necessary above all for the small island Territories, which are affected by their small size, small populations, geographic remoteness, limited natural resources and vulnerability to natural disasters.

Lastly, the draft resolution requests the Secretary-General to provide the Special Committee with the facilities and services required to carry out its mandate in implementing the resolutions and decisions on decolonization adopted by the General Assembly and the Special Committee.

The States members of the European Union have informally presented to the sponsors various amendments to draft resolution A/53/L.58, and although we have begun consultations in that regard, the lack of adequate time made it impossible to consider those amendments in depth. Given the scope of the amendments for a text that has existed for more than five years, some of which have direct implications for the programme of work of the Special Committee of 24, the recommendations would have to be duly discussed within the Special Committee itself in order for it to take the appropriate decisions.

The draft resolution that we are presenting this year is therefore substantively similar to the texts that the General Assembly has adopted by broad majority over the last few years.

The sponsoring delegations welcome the European Union's initiative with a view to moving towards greater concertation on these issues, and we hope that this will mark the beginning of a constructive and transparent process in that direction. The General Assembly can rely on the greatest possible willingness and constructive spirit on the part of the Special Committee.

I would like to point out that during 1998 the Special Committee received appropriate substantive and technical support from the Secretariat and has had at its disposal adequate resources to carry out its activities. In this respect, I would like to express to the Secretary-General, on behalf of the Special Committee, our appreciation and our satisfaction with the arrangements made to assist the Special Committee in the fulfilment of its mandate. In order for the Special Committee to continue to work smoothly, it is essential for such services and facilities to continue to be provided.

In conclusion, I would like to ask all Member States to consider positively the recommendations contained in the draft resolution before them on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. This would be an expression of support for the principled efforts of the United Nations to put an effective, speedy and unconditional end to colonialism in all its forms and manifestations.

Mr. Ayewoh (Nigeria): The consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session of agenda item 18, "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", could not have come at a better time. The historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which was adopted in 1960, has tremendously changed the membership and composition of the United Nations, as well as the conduct of relations among States.

My delegation attaches great importance to this agenda item, partly out of its historical experience as a former colonial territory and also out of a principled position regarding the rights of peoples to control their own destiny. My delegation commends the Committee of 24. Its success in the task assigned to it is universally recognized and appreciated by all.

Despite this success, however, we still have many Non-Self-Governing Territories today under one form of colonial administration or another. Indeed, precisely because of the nature of most of these Territories, which are basically small in size and population, as well as less endowed with natural resources, the role of the United Nations in ensuring that they attain their independence by the end of this decade has become more critical.

My delegation believes that these factors notwithstanding, it is only fair and just that the administering Powers give the indigenous peoples of these Territories the opportunity to decide whether or not they wish to be independent. This should be done under internationally recognized due process with the close supervision of the United Nations.

The declaration of this decade as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism underscores the fervent desire of the General Assembly to put the issue of colonialism behind it within a reasonable time-frame.

In this regard, my delegation wishes to reiterate its support for the work of the Special Committee on Decolonization. We will continue to cooperate with it in its endeavour to implement its objective of bringing an end to the era of colonialism by the year 2000. We welcome the measures adopted for the dissemination of information on decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and commend the efforts of the United Nations in the coordination of development assistance to these Territories by the specialized agencies. We deplore the activities of some foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence in these Territories.

Experience has taught all of us, especially those of us from formerly colonized countries, that for decolonization and self-government to be of any value to colonial peoples, it must be pursued simultaneously with concrete social, economic and political development measures. Assistance should be given to the colonial Territories to help establish the sound economic foundations and good political education necessary to carry the responsibilities of self-government. The United Nations specialized agencies should therefore increase development assistance programmes to these Territories, especially in human resource development.

As we approach the new millennium, let all the peoples of the world rededicate themselves to the complete eradication of colonialism. The Nigeria delegation has worked and will continue to work with the United Nations and its agencies to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/181 on the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. We will continue to cooperate closely with other delegations to ensure the attainment of this noble goal.

Mr. Ovia (Papua New Guinea): I thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to make some general comments regarding all the items before the General Assembly for consideration today, and especially those under the mandate of the Special Political Committee on Decolonization, the Committee of 24.

Papua New Guinea's position and views regarding all these issues are well known to the members of the General Assembly and therefore I do not intend to repeat them again at this time.

I would, however, like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to and congratulate the Chairman of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (the Fourth Committee), Mr. Pablo Macedo, and his Bureau for the exceptional efforts they have made in completing the work of that Committee in record time. I stand to be corrected here, but to the best of my knowledge, this year is the one of the few times, if not the first — at least in the short time I have been at the United Nations — in which that Committee has completed its work expeditiously.

I must also pay tribute to the diplomatic skills and leadership of Mr. Opertti in ensuring that the work of the Committee was on schedule. I am now thinking aloud here in wondering whether the fact that he and Mr. Macedo come from the same region of the world has anything to do with this speed. May I also add here that the Acting Chairman of the Committee of 24, Ambassador Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, also comes from that region.

Secondly, I would like to also take the opportunity to thank all the members of the Fourth Committee for their efforts and cooperation in working through the issues of mutual interest to all our countries. In this regard, I would like to make special mention of the good cooperation shown by all the administering Powers, and especially the Governments of New Zealand on Tokelau; the Government of Portugal; the Republic of France on New Caledonia; and, although informally, the Government of the United States on the question Guam; as well as the Acting Chairman and members of the Special Political Committee for all their efforts. My delegation would like place on record our great appreciation and further express the hope that we will continue to work together in the same spirit in the future towards a positive and eventual resolution of the status of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, of course taking into full account and consideration the expressed and legitimate will of the peoples of the Territories concern.

As is clearly shown by all the draft resolutions to be adopted by consensus today, including the omnibus draft resolution before the Committee today, my delegation is of the view that we, the Members of the United Nations, the administering Powers and members of the Committee of 24 alike, must allow and include in any negotiations and dialogue on the future of those Territories the affected peoples concerned. We will make much progress towards ending the last vestiges of colonialism, as clearly demonstrated by some of the consensus draft resolutions before us today, if we continue in this trend. Alternatively, as many of us would agree today, our Organization must allow for the greater engagement of the peoples of these Territories by sending periodic, if not regular United Nations visiting missions to each of these Territories to ascertain the full wishes of the peoples concerned.

Also in the same vein, my delegation would like to pay high tribute to the Secretary-General and his Special Rapporteurs for their positive efforts with regards to a number of the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their focus. From our delegation's assessment, there is good and positive progress being made on these fronts as well.

I am sure this is our common objective and the ultimate goal of our Organization and we must all persevere with those final efforts, which sometimes are the most difficult, to bring to fruition our desired goals.

May I also add here that, as "reform" is the buzz word in the corridors of this Assembly, it makes good economic, if not common sense for us to work together in resolving the outstanding issues in the shortest possible time in order that we may save money and time for our Organization.

In conclusion, my delegation pays tribute to all the members of this Assembly and makes a further call on all interested parties to devote those last efforts, including the political will to cooperate fully with the Committee of 24 and the General Assembly, to achieving our mandated objectives.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item.

I should like to inform members that the General Assembly will take action on the two draft resolutions on agenda item 18 after all the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) have been considered.

I should also like to draw members' attention to a typographic error in the text of draft resolution A/53/L.58.

At the end of the third line of the second preambular paragraph, the resolution number should read "52/78", instead of "57/78".

Reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

The Acting President: The General Assembly will consider the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) on agenda items 81 to 87, 88 and 18, 89 and 12, 90 as well as 18.

I request the Rapporteur of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, Mr. Bernard Tanoh-Boutchoué of Côte d'Ivoire, to introduce the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) in one intervention.

Mr. Tanoh-Boutchoué (Côte d'Ivoire), Rapporteur of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (*interpretation from French*): At its fifty-third session, the General Assembly, upon recommendation of the General Committee, allocated to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for consideration 12 agenda items: items 18, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89 and 12 and 90.

At its meeting on organization of work, held on 17 September 1998, the Fourth Committee decided, in order to rationalize its work and to make full and effective use of the conference services and facilities, to have a single general debate on all agenda items relating to the question of Non-Self-Governing Territories and other related matters. It spared no effort to complete its work by Friday, 20 November, as requested by the General Assembly. Between 5 October and 19 November, it held 24 meetings and adopted a total of 25 draft resolutions and three draft decisions, and concluded its work on Thursday, 19 November 1998, one day before the deadline set by the General Assembly.

It is my great pleasure and honour to introduce the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee to the General Assembly for consideration and approval.

The first report, submitted under agenda item 18, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", is contained in document A/53/594. The Committee adopted five draft resolutions, including a consolidated draft resolution dealing with 11 separate Territories. These draft resolutions appear in paragraph 34 of the report. The Fourth Committee recommends them to the General Assembly for adoption.

I should like to inform the General Assembly that paragraph 32 of the report contained in document A/53/594 does not match the original text submitted for publication. I therefore wish to read out the text of that paragraph as adopted by the Fourth Committee. The new text reads as follows:

> "At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a consolidated draft resolution incorporating the draft resolution on Guam which had been adopted (see para. 31), as section VI of the draft resolutions on the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, adopted on 13 October (see para. 26), with the following changes (see para. 34, draft resolution IV):".

Of course, a corrigendum on the new paragraph will be issued by the Secretariat.

The second report, on agenda item 81, entitled "Effects of atomic radiation", is contained in document A/53/595. The Fourth Committee considered the report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (A/53/46), as well as the reports submitted by the International Atomic Energy Agency

(IAEA) (A/53/478) and the World Health Organization (WHO) (A/53/483) on this question and adopted a draft resolution on this subject without a vote. The draft resolution appears in paragraph 6 of the report. The Fourth Committee recommends it to the General Assembly for adoption.

The third report, issued as document A/53/596, relates to agenda item 82, entitled "International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space". The Committee adopted without a vote the draft resolution that appears in paragraph 10 of the report and recommends it to the General Assembly for adoption.

The fourth report, issued as document A/53/597, relates to item 83 of the agenda, entitled "United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East". The Committee adopted seven draft resolutions on this item relating to various aspects of the mandate of the Agency, appear in paragraph 22 of the report, and recommends them to the General Assembly for adoption.

The fifth report, relating to agenda item 84, entitled "Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories", is contained in document A/53/598. The Committee adopted five draft resolutions, which appear in paragraph 21 of the report. It recommends the five draft resolutions to the General Assembly for adoption.

I wish to emphasize here that, generally speaking, the Fourth Committee welcomed, when it was considering this item, the signing of the Wye River Memorandum on 23 October 1998 between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority and expressed the wish that a final and lasting peace would be achieved for the mutual benefit of the two parties.

The sixth report, on agenda item 85, entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects", is contained in document A/53/599. The Fourth Committee adopted a draft resolution under this agenda item, which appears in paragraph 8 of its report, and recommends it to the General Assembly for adoption.

The seventh report, submitted under agenda item 86, entitled "Questions relating to information", is contained in document A/53/600. The Committee adopted without a vote draft resolutions A and B, which appear in paragraph 8, as well as the draft decision in paragraph 9. It recommends the two draft resolutions and the draft decision to the General Assembly for adoption.

The eighth report, issued as document A/53/601, relates to agenda item 87, entitled "Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations". The draft resolution on this item appears in paragraph 7 of the report, and the Fourth Committee recommends it to the General Assembly for adoption.

The ninth report, issued as document A/53/602, relates to agenda items 88, entitled "Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories", and 18, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples". By a recorded vote of 120 votes in favour to 2 against, with 3 abstentions, the Committee adopted a draft resolution on agenda item 88 entitled "Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories". The Committee also adopted a draft decision entitled "Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration" by a recorded vote of 74 votes in favour to 44 against, with 2 abstentions. The Fourth Committee recommends to the General Assembly for adoption the draft resolution and the draft decision, which appear in paragraphs 11 and 12 of the report respectively.

The tenth report, issued as document A/53/603, relates to agenda items 89, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations", and 12, entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council". The Committee adopted a draft resolution on agenda item 89 by a recorded vote of 85 votes in favour to none against, with 41 abstentions. It recommends that draft resolution, which appears in paragraph 7 of its report, for adoption by the General Assembly.

The eleventh and final report relates to agenda item 90, "Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories", and is contained in document A/53/604. The Committee recommends the draft resolution appearing in paragraph 6 of that report for adoption by the Assembly.

On behalf of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), I commend to the General Assembly for consideration and approval all the reports I have just introduced.

Let me take this opportunity to thank and pay special tribute to all delegations and all others who have contributed to the success of the work of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) at this session. I congratulate all the members of the Committee on the skill and spirit of cooperation they demonstrated with a view to achieving mutually satisfactory solutions, enabling the Committee to complete its work in an effective and constructive manner.

In particular, I thank the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Pablo Macedo of Mexico, whose diplomatic skill and experience enabled the Committee to conclude, on time and in an extremely effective way, its work on the agenda items allocated to it by the General Assembly. The Chairman benefitted from the valuable support of the Vice-Chairmen, Mr. Ferden Çariçhi of Turkey, Mr. Chun Hae-Jin of the Republic of Korea and Mr. Tomáš Hrbác of Slovakia, with whom as Rapporteur I had the pleasure of working as part of the Bureau of the Committee.

I want also to thank Mr. Mohammad Sattar, the Secretary of the Committee. It was truly a pleasure to work with him and his dynamic, supportive, capable team; thanks to them, the Committee's work was carried out in a climate of genuine cordiality.

My thanks go also to the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services, Mr. Jin Yongjian, for his kind assistance to the Committee, and to Mr. Vadim Perfiliev, Director of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs Division, for his help and cooperation.

The Acting President: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) that are before it today.

It was so decided.

The Acting President: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote or position. The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records. May I remind members that by paragraph 7 of decision 34/401 the Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I also remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Committee, unless the Secretariat is notified to the contrary in advance.

This means that where recorded votes were taken, we too will take recorded votes. Likewise, I would hope that we may proceed to adopt without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

Agenda item 81

Effects of atomic radiation

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/53/595)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) in paragraph 6 of its report (A/53/595).

The Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 53/44).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 81?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 82

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/53/596)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) in paragraph 10 of its report.

The Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 53/45).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 82?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 83

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/53/597)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the seven draft resolutions recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 22 of its report. After all the votes have been taken, representatives will have an opportunity to explain their votes.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "Assistance to Palestine refugees".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel

Abstaining:

Micronesia (Federated States of), United States of America

Draft resolution I was adopted by 157 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions (resolution 53/46).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Solomon Islands informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: We now turn to draft resolution II, entitled "Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East".

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 53/47).

The Acting President: We turn next to draft resolution III, entitled "Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, nited Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:

Micronesia (Federated States of)

Draft resolution III was adopted by 156 votes to 2, with 1 abstention (resolution 53/48).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Solomon Islands informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: We turn next to draft resolution IV, entitled "Offers by Member States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for Palestine refugees".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic

Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:
None

Abstaining:
Israel

Draft resolution IV was adopted by 160 votes to none with 1 abstention (resolution 53/49).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Solomon Islands informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: We turn next to draft resolution V, entitled "Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:
Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

Against:
Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:
Micronesia (Federated States of), Zambia

Draft resolution V was adopted by 157 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions (resolution 53/50).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Solomon Islands informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: We come now to draft resolution VI, entitled "Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:

Micronesia (Federated States of)

The draft resolution was adopted by 156 votes to 2, with 1 abstention (resolution 53/51).

[Subsequently, the delegation of the Solomon Islands informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: We now turn to draft resolution VII, entitled "University of Jerusalem 'Al-Quds' for Palestine Refugees".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:

Micronesia (Federated States of), Zambia

The draft resolution was adopted by 156 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions (resolution 53/52).

[Subsequently the delegation of the Solomon Islands informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 83?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 84

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/53/598)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the five draft resolutions recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 21 of its report. After all the votes have been taken, representatives will again have the opportunity to explain their vote.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Zambia

The draft resolution was adopted by 86 votes to 2, with 67 abstentions (resolution 53/53).

The Acting President: We turn now to draft resolution II, entitled "Applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the other occupied territories".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:

Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of)

The draft resolution was adopted by 155 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions (resolution 53/54).

The Acting President: Now we shall turn to draft resolution III, entitled "Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, Micronesia (Federated States of), United States of America

Abstaining:

Marshall Islands, Swaziland

The draft resolution was adopted by 150 votes to 3, with 2 abstentions (resolution 53/55).

The Acting President: We turn next to draft resolution IV, entitled "Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Zambia

The draft resolution was adopted by 151 votes to 2, with 4 abstentions (resolution 53/56).

The Acting President: We turn last to draft resolution V, entitled "The occupied Syrian Golan".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel

Abstaining:

Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Swaziland, United States of America, Uruguay, Zambia

Draft resolution V was adopted by 150 votes to 1, with 6 abstentions (resolution 53/57).

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the representative of Swaziland, who wishes to speak in explanation of vote on the resolution just adopted.

Mr. Dlamini (Swaziland): My delegation has reviewed its position on this item and this resolution. In view of the fact that Jerusalem is a place of spirituality where everybody has got to be happy and praise almighty God, everybody there must be protected and enjoy human rights.

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 84?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 85 *(continued)*

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/53/599)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

The Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 53/58).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 85?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 86

Questions relating to information

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/53/600)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 8 of its report and on the draft decision recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 9 of the same report.

We turn first to draft resolution A, entitled "Information in the service of humanity".

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee adopted draft resolution A without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution A was adopted (resolution 53/59 A).

The Acting President: We now turn to draft resolution B, entitled "United Nations public information policies and activities".

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee adopted draft resolution B without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution B was adopted (resolution 53/59 B).

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision, entitled "Increase in the membership of the Committee on Information".

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee adopted the draft decision without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 86?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 87

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/53/601)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

None

Abstaining:

France, Israel, Monaco, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The draft resolution was adopted by 156 votes to none, with 5 abstentions (resolution 53/60).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 87?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 88 and agenda item 18 (*continued*)

Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/53/602)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 11 of its report and the draft decision recommended by the Committee in paragraph 12 of the same report.

We turn first to the draft resolution, entitled, "Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self Governing Territories".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:

France, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The draft resolution was adopted by 154 votes to 2, with 5 abstentions (resolution 53/61).

The Acting President: We now turn to the draft decision, entitled "Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan

Abstaining:

Belarus

The draft decision was adopted by 99 votes to 54, with 1 abstention.

[Subsequently, the delegation of Samoa informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour].

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 88?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 18.

Agenda item 89 and agenda item 12 (*continued*)

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/53/603)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The draft resolution is entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

None

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan

The draft resolution was adopted by 112 votes to none, with 51 abstentions (resolution 53/62).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 89?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: The Assembly has concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 12.

Agenda item 90

Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/53/604)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 53/63).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 90?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 18 *(continued)*

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/53/594)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the four draft resolutions recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in paragraph 34 of its report and on the draft decision recommended by the Committee in paragraph 35 of the same report.

We turn first to the four draft resolutions contained in paragraph 34 of the report.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Question of Western Sahara". The Special Political and Decolonization Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 53/64).

The Acting President: Draft resolution II is entitled "Question of New Caledonia".

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee adopted draft resolution II without objection. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 53/65).

The Acting President: Draft resolution III is entitled "Question of Tokelau".

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee adopted draft resolution III without objection. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 53/66).

The Acting President: Draft resolution IV is entitled "Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands". The Special Political and Decolonization Committee adopted draft resolution IV. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 53/67).

The Acting President: We turn now to the draft decision contained in paragraph 35 of the report. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee adopted the draft decision, entitled "Question of Gibraltar", without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft decision was adopted.

The Acting President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 18.

The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of all the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

Agenda item 18 *(continued)*

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Draft resolutions (A/53/L.58, A/53/23 (Part II), Chapter III, para. 12)

The Acting President: The General Assembly will now take action on the draft resolutions submitted under this item.

We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/53/L.58 and the draft resolution contained in paragraph 12, part II, chapter III, of the report of the Special Committee (A/53/23).

The Assembly will first take a decision on draft resolution A/53/L.58, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Azerbaijan, Belgium, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Turkey

Draft resolution A/53/L.58 was adopted by 144 votes to 2, with 18 abstentions (resolution 53/68).

The Acting President: The Assembly will next take a decision on the draft resolution contained in paragraph 12 of part II, chapter III, of the report of the Special Committee (A/53/23), entitled "Dissemination of information on decolonization".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

France, Micronesia (Federated States of), Russian Federation

The draft resolution was adopted by 156 votes to 3, with 3 abstentions (resolution 53/69).

The Acting President: I now call on the representative of the United Kingdom, who wishes to speak in explanation of vote after the voting. May I remind him that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Eldon (United Kingdom): I regret that my delegation has found it again necessary to vote against resolution 53/68, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and resolution 53/69, on the dissemination of information on decolonization.

The latter text does contain elements which, as an administering Power, the United Kingdom welcomes. In particular, we note the recognition that self-determination does not automatically equate independence and that there are other options available. However, we believe that the continuing financial crisis means that the obligation this text places on the Department of Political Affairs and Department of Public Information to publicize decolonization issues is a serious waste of scarce resources. This resolution is therefore unacceptable to us.

The United Kingdom also regrets that the resolution on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples continues to contain outdated language and assumptions that do not reflect reality in the United Kingdom's Non-Self-Governing Territories. We do not accept that the presence of military bases could in any way constitute an obstacle to the granting of independence or impede their inhabitants from expressing their views on self-determination. Similarly, the text of the resolution suggests the administering Powers are guilty of "economic exploitation" and even of "violations of basic human rights". We reject such claims, which are wholly without foundation.

My delegation also finds unacceptable the continued references to "colonialism", "colonial rule" and "colonial countries". We do not accept that such terminology accurately reflects the present-day relationship between the United Kingdom and its overseas Territories. And the presence of such language in this text is particularly regrettable, given the improvements made to other resolutions on decolonization issues in recent years. We hope that the drafters of the two resolutions before us will in future follow the trend set in these other resolutions. We stand ready to work with them to that end.

My delegation joins with others in recognizing that decolonization is one of the great success stories of the United Nations. We pay tribute to those who have worked successfully and with goodwill in this field, and we will of course continue to fulfil our Charter obligations with regard to the United Kingdom's overseas Territories.

We also welcome the Special Committee of 24's readiness to engage constructively with the administering

Powers. However, the United Kingdom continues to take issue with the need for a decolonization programme of the kind espoused by the Committee. The United Nations has more pressing goals, affecting vastly greater numbers of the world's population and more relevant to today's needs. The activities and structure of this Organization should reflect the world's present and future priorities, not those of the past.

In conclusion, the two draft resolutions submitted to this General Assembly do not reflect or advance the wishes and interests of the peoples of the remaining United Kingdom overseas Territories; and those wishes and interests remain the paramount consideration in my Government's policy towards them.

The Acting President: We have heard the only speaker in explanation of vote.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 18?

It was so decided.

Programme of work

The Acting President: Before turning to the next speaker, I should like to draw members' attention to the announcement in the *Journal* concerning the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to be held on 10 December, with three plenary meetings of the General Assembly scheduled for 10.00 a.m., 3.00 p.m. and 9.30 p.m.

I should like to share with members information on some aspects concerning the logistics of the organization of the General Assembly meetings devoted to the commemoration.

The opening of the commemoration and the award of human rights prizes will be held in the General Assembly Hall at 10 a.m. For logistical reasons, the commemoration will continue that same morning and for the rest of the day in Conference Room 4, where all statements by member States and observers will be heard.

In this connection, members will recall that yesterday, at its 76th plenary meeting, the General Assembly decided to limit statements in the commemoration to five minutes in view of the very large number of speakers already inscribed.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.

United Nations

A/53/PV.79

General Assembly

Fifty-third Session

Official Records

79th plenary meeting
Friday, 4 December 1998, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Opertti . . . . (Uruguay)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Reports of the First Committee

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): The General Assembly will now consider the reports of the First Committee on agenda items 63 to 80.

I request the Rapporteur of the First Committee, Mr. Motaz Zahran of Egypt, to introduce the reports of the First Committee in one intervention.

Mr. Zahran (Egypt), Rapporteur of the First Committee (*interpretation from Arabic*): I am very pleased to submit to the General Assembly the reports of the First Committee on agenda items 63 through 80, relating to disarmament and international security. These reports are contained in documents A/53/576 to A/53/593.

Responding to an appeal of the General Assembly, the Committee utilized its resources fully and ended its work during the current session after five weeks, during which it held 31 official and two unofficial meetings. The Committee's work in this session can be described as very stimulating, from a procedural point of view. From a substantive point of view, it was very constructive, fully focused on the work and very practical in nature.

Forty-eight draft resolutions, one draft decision and a number of amendments to the draft resolutions were submitted to the Committee. Of the 48 draft resolutions and one draft decision, 26, or 55 per cent, were adopted without a vote. This indicates a wider convergence of views in the work, and we hope that this trend will continue.

The disarmament programme in 1998 was very eventful; this year, Member States dealt with questions that had to do with disarmament and international security. It is clear that the recent nuclear tests in South Asia and other developments had an impact and framed the debate in the international forums on disarmament. Naturally, the First Committee's general debate on disarmament and international security reflected this. The draft resolution on nuclear tests and the unprecedented number of amendments to it fully convey the atmosphere and the rationale that prevailed during the discussion of that question.

In general, statements by delegations paid tribute to the achievements made in the past two years, but they also reflected an increasing concern and willingness by Member States to work in a more cooperative manner to deal with the questions which should be dealt with in the near future.

As in past years, the complexities of questions having to do with nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation still form the essence of the debate on international security concerns. Foremost among the subjects addressed are nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, nuclear-weapon-free zones, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the ban on the production of fissile material for the purposes

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of the production of nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction as well as on conventional weapons, including anti-personnel mines. Of the 48 resolutions and the one decision, 27 were dedicated to these questions.

The majority of delegations shed light on the developments in disarmament during the past year, particularly those within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament. Member States expressed particular satisfaction vis-à-vis the decision by the Conference to establish, under item 1 of its agenda entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament" an ad hoc committee to negotiate, on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator (CD/1299) and the mandate contained therein, a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

Delegations also stressed that more efforts should be made to reduce nuclear arsenals, unilaterally, bilaterally and multilaterally.

There was an increasingly ambitious tendency to consider nuclear disarmament in a way that would result in the adoption of innovative and courageous approaches. In this context, a new draft resolution was adopted, entitled "Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: the need for a new agenda", which was added to the list of other draft resolutions dealing with nuclear weapons.

Member States also affirmed that they are determined to effectively bolster the non-proliferation regime at the global level. The establishment of new nuclear-weapon-free zones and the strengthening of existing zones as a step towards that objective occupied the attention of the Committee. In that context, the draft resolution on Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status was also adopted by consensus. Support for that draft resolution was a welcome new development and can be added to the support traditionally provided by Member States for draft resolutions on the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in Central Asia and the Middle East, on bolstering the regime established by the Treaty of Tlatelolco, on the nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas and on the dangers of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East.

Satisfaction was expressed with regard to the decision of the Conference on Disarmament in 1998 to establish an ad hoc committee on provision of security guarantees to non-nuclear-weapon States. However, there is still a need for careful negotiations to achieve internationally effective guarantees and measures that will lead to an international agreement in that respect. That issue was at the forefront of our attention during the dialogue on security questions.

The agenda items dealing with other weapons of mass destruction, particularly regarding the agreements on chemical and biological weapons, all shared in the attention of the Committee. As before, the two draft resolutions on the two conventions were adopted without a vote.

In addition, the Committee adopted a draft resolution on the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. Among the positive developments was the adoption of that draft resolution without a vote, as in past years. The convening of the fourth special session will be discussed in the Disarmament Commission in 1999. The Commission was unable to reach a consensus on the issue last year. However, I hope that through further consultations and, in particular, through the convergence of positions on important questions in the Commission, we will be able to eliminate completely those differences so that the special session can be convened.

While retaining its conventional aspects, the issue of regional and conventional disarmament acquired a new dimension for which effective measures will be required, especially with regard to landmines. The issue of conventional weapons has thus received broad attention. The initiatives taken by the Governments of Mali, Albania and other countries that have been harmed because of the trade in and illegal possession of such weapons, together with the report of the Secretary-General prepared last year with the assistance of the Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms, have all helped to concentrate the attention of the international community anew on that question. The First Committee also considered further improvements to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the reporting regime and the possibility of widening its scope. In spite of the fact that the Register contributes to confidence-building, there was a wide divergence of opinion which prevented the Committee from adding further categories of conventional weapons, and weapons of mass destruction, and from making other improvements expected by Member States. In spite of the adoption of two draft resolutions on transparency in disarmament, dealing with all aspects of that question, Member States still attach great importance to that issue.

Finally, I should like to draw the attention of the Assembly to some additions in document A/53/576, under agenda item 63. The word "international" should be added to the title, which would then read:

(*spoke in English*)

> "Role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields."

(*spoke in Arabic*)

The same correction should be made in the first line of paragraph 1 of the same document.

Before concluding, I should like to pay tribute to the delegations that took part in the Committee's work for the spirit of cooperation that they showed in our common search for a better, more secure and stable world. I also wish to extend special thanks to the Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador André Mernier, whose close knowledge of disarmament and international security and whose high diplomatic skills contributed great vision and leadership to the Committee. I should also like to thank Ambassador Arystanbekova of Kazakhstan, Ambassador González of Chile and Mr. Laptsenak of Belarus for carrying out their duties in the Committee.

I should also like to express our appreciation to the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services, Mr. Jin Yongjian, and to the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Jayantha Dhanapala, for their leadership of the Secretariat staff and for their valuable contribution. In addition I wish to thank the Secretary of the First Committee, Mr. Lin Kuo-chung, whose broad experience and efficiency led to the success of the work of the Committee.

I should also like to express my appreciation to Mr. Mohammad Sattar, Mr. Timur Alasaniya, Mr. Michael Cassandra, Mr. David Biggs, Mr. Gary de Rosa, Ms. Lidija Komatina and others from the Secretariat staff for their valuable assistance to the Committee and to me personally. I should also like to add that I had the opportunity as Rapporteur of the First Committee to get to know the unknown soldiers who work with great dedication in the Secretariat and who deserve our great appreciation.

With these remarks, I should like to submit to the General Assembly for its consideration the reports of the First Committee contained in documents A/53/576 to A/53/593.

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the First Committee which are before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote. The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the First Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that, under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that:

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I remind delegations that, also in accordance with decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the First Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the First Committee, unless notified otherwise in advance. This means that where recorded or separate votes were taken, we will do the same. I should also hope that we may proceed to adopt without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the First Committee.

Agenda item 63

Role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields

Report of the First Committee (A/53/576)

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The First Committee adopted the draft resolution entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security" without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 53/70).

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): May I take it that is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 63?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 64

Maintenance of international security — prevention of the violent disintegration of States

Report of the First Committee (A/53/577)

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 11 of its report.

The Secretariat has been informed that no separate vote is requested on this draft resolution.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon , Canada, Cape, Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

None

Abstaining:

Armenia, Chile, China, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Pakistan

The draft resolution was adopted by 156 to none, with 6 abstentions (resolution 53/71).

[Subsequently, the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea informed the Secretariat that it had intended to abstain].

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 64?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 65

Reduction of military budgets

Report of the First Committee (A/53/578)

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

The First Committee adopted the draft resolution entitled "Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures" without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 53/72).

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 65?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 66

Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament

Report of the First Committee (A/53/579)

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, Comoros, Gambia, Georgia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Namibia, Paraguay, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, South Africa, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu

The draft resolution was adopted by 99 votes to 45, with 23 abstentions (resolution 53/73).

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 66?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 67

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

Report of the First Committee (A/53/580)

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The First Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 53/74).

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 67?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 68

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia

Report of the First Committee (A/53/581)

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): May I take it that the Assembly wishes to take note of the report of the First Committee on this item?

It was so decided.

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 68?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 69

Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons

Report of the First Committee (A/53/582)

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

None

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu

The draft resolution was adopted by 117 votes to none, with 52 abstentions (resolution 53/75).

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 69?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 70

Prevention of an arms race in outer space

Report of the First Committee (A/53/583)

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

None

Abstaining:

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), United States of America

The draft resolution was adopted by 165 votes to none, with 4 abstentions (resolution 53/76).

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 70?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 71

General and complete disarmament

(a) Notification of nuclear tests

(b) Further measures in the field of disarmament for the prevention of an arms race on the seabed and the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof: report of the Secretary-General

(c) Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol

(d) Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

(e) Transparency in armaments

(f) Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them

(g) Relationship between disarmament and development

(h) Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control

(i) Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament

(j) Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures

(k) Contributions towards banning anti-personnel landmines

(l) Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes

(m) Small arms

(n) Nuclear disarmament

(o) Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas

(p) Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons

(q) Regional disarmament

(r) Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels

(s) Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia

(t) Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

Report of the First Committee (A/53/584)

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): The Assembly has before it 27 draft resolutions recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 89 of its report on this item.

I call on the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on a point of order.

Mr. Dehghani (Islamic Republic of Iran): My delegation wishes to put on record that it had been its intention to join in sponsoring draft resolutions E, entitled "Small arms", and T, entitled "Illicit traffic in small arms".

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): I shall now call on those representative who wish to speak in explanation of vote before the voting.

Mr. Kim Sam Jong (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): My delegation wishes to clarify its position on agenda item 71 (d), entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction". We fully support the humanitarian purposes and the nature of that Convention. However, in the present situation on the Korean peninsula, where acute military confrontation exists, we are not in a position to accede to the Convention at this stage, for security reasons. In fact, we use landmines in the area along the military demarcation line, solely for defensive purposes. There are no instances of civilian casualties caused by those mines.

If the problem of prohibiting landmines on the Korean peninsula is to be solved satisfactorily, durable peace and stability should be ensured by replacing the present armistice system with a new peace mechanism. In this regard, a peace agreement between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States should be concluded, and United States troops should be withdrawn from the peninsula.

In the light of this position, my delegation will not participate in the vote on draft resolution N.

Ms. Miller (Malta): My delegation would like to explain its position on draft resolution H, entitled "Regional disarmament". Malta has reviewed the text under consideration and would like to say that the terms of the draft resolution continue to give rise to questions regarding its scope. It is not clear what the intention behind the draft resolution is. It would seem that it aims at the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the area to which it refers. Malta has consistently supported the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones; this is reflected in the number of draft resolutions on the subject which Malta has supported in the First Committee, including those on the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba, on the Middle East, on the Almaty Declaration and on the more generic nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere.

We view such zones as a valuable contribution to the realization of the goals of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). However, as stated in the NPT itself, such zones should be based on agreements freely arrived at among the States concerned. We thus view these two principles as part of a whole, for it is only in that way that real progress can be achieved. From the voting pattern on draft resolution H in the First Committee, it is clear that agreement among the States concerned is absent. It is also clear that the proposal set out in the draft resolution, apart from disregarding regional concerns, does not take into account the broader concerns of the international community. The draft resolution was, in fact, adopted with only 57 votes in favour. It is therefore evident that the objectives of the draft resolution have little chance of success.

Malta believes that it would have been preferable for the sponsors of the draft resolution to adopt other approaches that could lead to significant disarmament in the region. The draft resolution in question clearly divides rather than unites us in our common goal to reach the ultimate objective of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. It is for these reasons that Malta will vote against the draft resolution.

Mr. Erdös (Hungary): I am speaking on behalf of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, the Republic of Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

As the General Assembly prepares to vote on draft resolution H, contained in document A/53/584, referred to a moment ago by our colleague from Malta, these like-minded Central and Eastern European countries wish to express their gratitude to the many delegations that have opposed this draft resolution or that abstained from voting on it in the First Committee.

These like-minded Central and Eastern European countries wish to reiterate their confidence that the unequivocal position of the countries most directly affected by the draft resolution that is being put to the vote today will not be disregarded. As they have already indicated, they consider the thrust of this draft resolution — which aims at imposing on virtually a whole region arrangements against the explicitly expressed will of the countries of that region — as constituting an unfortunate, disturbing and counter-productive precedent.

The countries on behalf of which I am now taking the floor wish to appeal to all delegations to consider carefully the impact of such an action, which if approved by the General Assembly would clearly be at variance with the provisions of relevant United Nations documents. These like-minded Central and Eastern European countries therefore respectfully call on the other delegations not to endorse this draft resolution.

Mr. Boang (Botswana): In the First Committee my delegation voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.23/Rev.1, now draft resolution H in document A/53/584, entitled "Regional disarmament". The affirmative vote cast by my delegation was borne out of our commitment to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and nuclear disarmament. It has, however, come to the attention of my delegation that the draft resolution does not seem to enjoy the support of the countries of the region concerned. The full support of the countries of the region should be secured if what is intended to be attained by operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution before us is to be realized.

In the absence of such support and in view of article VII of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, my delegation will, at this stage, abstain during the voting on this draft resolution.

Mr. Kellman (El Salvador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): My delegation wishes to explain its vote on draft resolution H, contained in paragraph 89 of document A/53/584 and entitled "Regional disarmament".

El Salvador — on principle and as a party to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which created the first nuclear-weapon-free zone — strongly supports all actions aimed at general and complete disarmament. We believe that one of the main ways to achieve this goal is to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones that take into account the characteristics of each region and that are based on arrangements freely arrived at. We are committed to this objective and therefore value greatly the initiative contained in this draft resolution. We believe that the principles included in it will be strengthened to the extent that it is supported by the greatest possible number of countries from this region.

Therefore my delegation will have to abstain in the voting on this draft resolution. Nevertheless, we agree in principle with its basic message. We understand that our abstention will not be taken as contravening the objectives and principles that govern the position of El Salvador with regard to disarmament.

Mr. Kunda (Zambia): I should like to take the floor to make an explanation of vote in relation to draft resolution G, contained in document A/53/584 and entitled "Nuclear testing".

Since the vote on this draft resolution in the First Committee my delegation has received fresh instructions to abstain in the voting on the draft resolution in the General Assembly.

Mr. Granovsky (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): The Russian delegation notes the positive and constructive thrust of draft resolution H, contained in document A/53/584, the text of which was submitted to the First Committee by Belarus. We believe that this draft resolution seeks to strengthen European security and the nuclear non-proliferation regime. The Russian Federation supported it in the First Committee, and we intend to vote in favour of it now.

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): I shall now put the 27 draft resolutions to the Assembly one by one. After all the decisions have been taken, representatives will again have the opportunity to explain their vote.

To avoid any confusion, I should like to reiterate that I shall now put to the Assembly for adoption the 27 draft resolutions identified by the letters "A" to "Z" and "AA", which are contained in paragraph 89, in section III of the report, entitled "Recommendations of the First Committee".

We shall turn first to draft resolution A, entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia". The First Committee adopted draft resolution A without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution A was adopted (resolution 53/77 A).

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): Draft resolution B is entitled "Assistance to States for curbing the traffic in small arms and collecting them".

The First Committee adopted draft resolution B without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution B was adopted (resolution 53/77 B).

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): Draft resolution C is entitled "Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes".

The First Committee also adopted draft resolution C without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution C was adopted (resolution 53/77 C).

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): Draft resolution D is entitled "Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status".

The First Committee adopted draft resolution D without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution D was adopted (resolution 53/77 D).

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): Draft resolution E is entitled "Small arms".

A separate vote has been requested on the fourth preambular paragraph of draft resolution E.

If there is no objection to that request, I shall first put to the vote the fourth preambular paragraph.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

None

Abstaining:

Azerbaijan, France, Georgia, India, Israel, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The fourth preambular paragraph of draft resolution E was retained by 152 votes to none, with 13 abstentions.

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): I now put to the vote draft resolution E as a whole.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

None

Abstaining:

Russian Federation

Draft resolution E was adopted by 169 votes to none, with 1 abstention (resolution 53/77 E).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Saudi Arabia informed the Secretariat that it had intended to abstain.]

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): Draft resolution F is entitled "Reducing nuclear danger".

A separate vote has been requested on operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution F.

If there is no objection to that request, I shall first put to the vote operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution F.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

None

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Yemen

Operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution F was retained by 99 votes to none, with 68 abstentions.

[Subsequently, the delegation of Japan informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.]

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): I shall now put to the vote draft resolution F as a whole.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, China, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua, San Marino, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu

Draft resolution F was adopted by 108 votes to 45, with 17 abstentions (resolution 53/77 F).

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): Draft resolution G is entitled "Nuclear testing".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela

Against:

Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bhutan, India, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Zimbabwe

Abstaining:

Algeria, Bangladesh, Cuba, Cyprus, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Maldives, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Oman, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia

Draft resolution G was adopted by 118 votes to 9, with 33 abstentions (resolution 53/77 G).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Antigua and Barbuda informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour; the delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo had intended to abstain.]

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): Draft resolution H is entitled "Regional disarmament".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brunei Darussalam, Cape Verde, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Fiji, Guinea, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Djibouti, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, India, Jamaica, Mauritius, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Korea, San Marino, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Zambia

Draft resolution H was adopted by 63 votes to 44, with 47 abstentions (resolution 53/77 H).

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): Draft resolution I is entitled "The Conference on Disarmament decision to establish, under item 1 of its agenda entitled 'Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament' an ad hoc committee to negotiate, on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator (CD/1299) and the mandate contained therein, a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices".

The First Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 53/77 I).

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): Draft resolution J is entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:
None

Abstaining:
France, Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Draft resolution J was adopted by 170 votes to none, with 4 abstentions (resolution 53/77 J).

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): Draft resolution K is entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development".

The First Committee adopted draft resolution K without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution K was adopted (resolution 53/77 K).

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): Draft resolution L is entitled "Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:
Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:
None

Abstaining:

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Republic of Korea, United States of America

Draft resolution L was adopted by 168 votes to none, with 5 abstentions (resolution 53/77 L).

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): Draft resolution M is entitled "Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures".

The First Committee adopted draft resolution M without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution M was adopted (resolution 53/77 M).

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): Draft resolution N is entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

None

Abstaining:

Azerbaijan, China, Cuba, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Kazakhstan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Morocco, Myanmar, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, United States of America, Viet Nam, Yemen

Draft resolution N was adopted by 147 votes to none, with 21 abstentions (resolution 53/77 N).

[Subsequently, the delegations of Cameroon and Yemen informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): Draft resolution O is entitled "Regional disarmament".

The First Committee adopted draft resolution O without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution O was adopted (resolution 53/77 O).

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): Draft resolution P is entitled "Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:
India

Abstaining:
Bhutan, Cuba

Draft resolution P was adopted by 164 votes, to 1, with 2 abstentions (resolution 53/77 P).

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): Draft resolution Q is entitled "Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas".

A separate vote has been requested on the words "and South Asia" in operative paragraph 3 and on the entire operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution Q.

Are there any objections to this request? I see none.

I shall first put to the vote the words "and South Asia" in operative paragraph 3.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:
Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Bhutan, India

Abstaining:

Algeria, Bangladesh, Cuba, Cyprus, Estonia, France, Honduras, Hungary, Israel, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Viet Nam

The words "and South Asia" were retained in operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution Q by 141 votes to 2, with 20 abstentions.

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): I shall now put to the vote operative paragraph 3 as a whole.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Bhutan, India

Abstaining:

Bangladesh, Estonia, France, Hungary, Israel, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution Q was retained by 146 votes to 2, with 15 abstentions.

[Subsequently, the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea informed the Secretariat that it had intended to abstain.]

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): I shall now put to the vote draft resolution Q as a whole.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia

Against:

France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Bhutan, Estonia, Gabon, Georgia, India, Israel, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Russian Federation

Draft resolution Q as a whole was adopted by 154 votes to 3, with 10 abstentions (resolution 53/77 Q).

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): Draft resolution R is entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction".

The First Committee adopted draft resolution R without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution R was adopted (resolution 53/77 R).

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): Draft resolution S is entitled "Transparency in armaments".

Separate votes have been requested on the eighth preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 3 (b) of draft resolution S.

Are there any objections to this request? I see none.

I shall first put to the vote the eighth preambular paragraph.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:
India, Israel

Abstaining:
Bhutan, Cuba, Pakistan

The eighth preambular paragraph of draft resolution S was retained by 163 votes to 2, with 3 abstentions.

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): I shall now put to the vote operative paragraph 3 (b) of draft resolution S.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:
Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:
Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:
Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Cameroon, China, Cyprus, Georgia, Honduras, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

Operative paragraph 3 (b) of the draft resolution was retained by 95 votes to 47, with 18 abstentions.

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): I shall now put to the vote draft resolution S as a whole.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:
Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:
Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech

Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belarus, China, Cyprus, Georgia, Honduras, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

Draft resolution S was adopted by 104 votes to 46, with 17 abstentions (resolution 53/77 S).

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): Draft resolution T, "Illicit traffic in small arms," was adopted by the First Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution T was adopted (resolution 53/77 T).

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): Draft resolution U is entitled "Nuclear disarmament with a view to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons".

Separate votes have been requested on the second preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution U. Are there any objections to those requests? I see none.

I shall therefore first put to the vote the second preambular paragraph.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

India

Abstaining:

Bhutan, Israel, Pakistan

The second preambular paragraph was retained by 159 votes to 1, with 3 abstentions.

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): I shall now put to the vote operative paragraph 1.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

India, Israel, Pakistan

Abstaining:

Bhutan, Cuba

Operative paragraph 1 was retained by 166 votes to 3, with 2 abstentions.

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): I now put to the vote draft resolution U as a whole.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

None

Abstaining:

Algeria, Bhutan, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Mauritius, Myanmar, Pakistan

Draft resolution U was adopted by 160 votes to none, with 11 abstentions (resolution 53/77 U).

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): Draft resolution V is entitled "Transparency in armaments".

Separate votes have been requested on operative paragraph 4 (b) and operative paragraph 6 of draft resolution V. Are there any objections to those requests? I see none.

I shall therefore put to the vote first operative paragraph 4 (b).

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

None

Abstaining:

Algeria, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mexico, Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen

Operative paragraph 4 (b) was retained by 156 votes to none, with 10 abstentions.

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): I shall now put to the vote operative paragraph 6.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:
None

Abstaining:
Algeria, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mexico, Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic

Operative paragraph 6 was retained by 155 votes to none, with 11 abstentions.

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): I shall now put to the vote draft resolution V as a whole.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:
Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe,

Against:
None

Abstaining:
Algeria, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic

Draft resolution V was adopted by 159 votes to none, with 12 abstentions (resolution 53/77 V).

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): Draft resolution W is entitled "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*".

A separate vote has been requested on operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution W. Are there any objections to this request? I see none.

I shall therefore first put to the vote operative paragraph of draft resolution W.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

France, Monaco, Russian Federation, United States of America

Abstaining:

Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Gabon, Israel, Marshall Islands, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uzbekistan

Operative paragraph 1 was retained by 159 votes to 4, with 8 abstentions.

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): I shall now put to draft resolution W as a whole.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Iceland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Norway, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Draft resolution W was adopted by 123 votes to 25, with 25 abstentions (resolution 53/77 W).

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): Draft resolution X is entitled "Nuclear disarmament".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Chile, Cyprus, Georgia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malta, Marshall Islands, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, San Marino, South Africa, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

Draft resolution X was adopted by 110 votes to 41, with 18 abstentions (resolution 53/77 X).

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): Draft resolution Y is entitled "Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: the need for a new agenda".

Separate votes have been requested on operative paragraph 8 and operative paragraph 17 of draft resolution Y. Are there any objections to those requests? I see none.

I shall first put to the vote operative paragraph 8.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran

(Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe,

Against:
India, Israel, Pakistan

Abstaining:
Bhutan, Cuba

Operative paragraph 8 was retained by 160 votes to 3, with 2 abstentions.

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): I shall now put the vote operative paragraph 17 of draft resolution Y.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:
Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Abstaining:
Cuba, India, Israel, Pakistan, Republic of Korea

Operative paragraph 17 was retained by 156 votes to 1, with 5 abstentions.

Mr. Mangoaela (Lesotho), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The Acting President: I shall now put to the vote draft resolution Y as a whole.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Hungary, India, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Monaco, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Bhutan, Canada, China, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Myanmar, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Slovenia, Spain, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

The draft resolution was adopted by 114 votes to 18, with 38 abstentions (resolution 53/77 Y).

The Acting President: Draft resolution Z is entitled "Bilateral nuclear arms negotiations and nuclear disarmament".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:
None

Abstaining:
Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lebanon, Pakistan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania

The draft resolution was adopted by 166 votes to none, with 8 abstentions (resolution 53/77 Z).

The Acting President: Draft resolution AA is entitled "Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament".

The First Committee adopted draft resolution AA without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (draft resolution 53/77 AA).

The Acting President: I shall now give the floor to those representatives who wish to make statements in explanation of vote.

Mr. Purbo (Indonesia): My delegation has asked for the floor to briefly explain its votes on two draft resolutions under item 71.

My delegation would have preferred that the draft resolution on nuclear testing address all forms of nuclear tests and not selectively deplore such tests in particular regions of South Asia. That was why Indonesia strongly supported the amendments submitted in the First Committee in this regard. Unfortunately the amendments that addressed those issues and concerns were not adopted. However, since it has long been Indonesia's position to oppose all nuclear tests, including laboratory and sub-critical tests, wherever they are conducted, my delegation decided to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution H, entitled "Regional disarmament", contains positive elements to which my delegation can subscribe concerning non-deployment of nuclear weapons in the territories of non-nuclear-weapon States in any region, including the region in question. Hence we endorse the call to encourage the States concerned to refrain from permitting the deployment of nuclear weapons in their territories while they fulfil their commitments undertaken in treaties on non-proliferation.

Mr. Felicio (Brazil): My delegation asked for the floor for a brief explanation of vote regarding the resolution entitled "Reducing nuclear danger", contained in document A/53/584 as draft resolution F, which was just adopted by the General Assembly.

We voted in favour of this draft resolution because we share its main goal of nuclear disarmament and its legitimate concern with the dangers of nuclear war. Brazil is committed to the objectives of non-proliferation and to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

As stated before by my delegation, Brazil condemns all nuclear tests. We strongly reject the notion that nuclear weapons can bring security to any nation. On the contrary, they breed only tension and instability and constitute a major roadblock to international peace and security. Having renounced the nuclear option, Brazil calls for universal adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). On the other hand, it must be pointed out that the NPT will not have fulfilled its goal, as set out in article VI, until all existing nuclear weapons are gone.

Mr. Khan (Pakistan): I take this opportunity to explain my delegation's vote on resolution H, entitled "Regional disarmament". This was a new initiative, and we have noted that it certainly contains some positive elements. Our affirmative vote in the Committee and in the plenary reflects our commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

In this case, however, we have noted that most of the countries of the region have voted against this resolution. This is a weighty consideration which will have a bearing on our position vis-à-vis this initiative in the future.

Mr. Enkhsaikhan (Mongolia): Resolution D, which has just been adopted without a vote, is of special importance for my country. It is intended to strengthen our international security and nuclear-weapon-free status. It is also important in promoting the cause of strengthening peace and security in general because it embodies an innovative approach to the question of dealing with initiatives for nuclear-weapon-free zone in non-traditional cases.

This innovation lies in the fact that the international community recognizes and accepts that even a single State has the right to acquire internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free status, bearing in mind the particular needs and interests of that State, as well as those of its neighbours and of international stability in the region in general.

The negotiations have led us to conclude that the nuclear-weapon status of a small State in a geopolitical location like that of Mongolia, which does not belong to any regional security arrangement, would be stronger and more credible provided that its overall security is internationally recognized and strengthened. For this reason, the resolution links Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status with its international security environment and future practical security arrangements. The stronger its international security is, the stronger its nuclear-weapon-free status will be.

We are optimistic with regard to the outcome of the practical steps to be taken in this connection, as required by paragraph 3 of the resolution. Our optimism is based on the good-neighbourly relations that Mongolia enjoys with all States, and especially with its two neighbours, both of which have concluded treaties on friendly relations and cooperation with Mongolia. We believe that entering into appropriate security arrangements with our neighbours would reinforce confidence and good-neighbourly relations not only between Mongolia and its immediate neighbours but also, hopefully, between those neighbours. It would also make the policies of the three States more transparent and predictable.

In a broader context, bearing in mind the weight that our neighbours and other nuclear-weapon States have in international relations, we believe that a well-balanced set of arrangements could play an important role in enhancing further stability in this strategic region. It could also be linked at some future stage with emerging or future regional security arrangements or mechanisms, whether in East, North-East or Central Asia.

The appropriate arrangements to consolidate and strengthen Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status are yet to be defined. In this challenging task, the resolution asks the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations bodies to provide the necessary assistance and to report on the implementation of this resolution at the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly. Mongolia is ready to work constructively in this direction.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to express its gratitude to all the delegations that have worked together with my delegation in successfully negotiating the resolution.

Mr. Sergiwa (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*interpretation from Arabic*): My delegation has asked for the floor to explain its position on resolution N, on the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. This Convention does not provide for assistance to States whose land has been infested with landmines since the Second World War. It puts no obligations on the States that planted those mines during the war in countries that did not participate in the war in the first place. Their lands were taken to be used as the theatre of war, which later caused serious harm, preventing them from using their fertile land for cultivation.

My country is a case in point. We are still suffering from the numerous landmines laid in our country during the Second World War. My country was the first to suggest that the United Nations discuss the issue, and we raised it with the States that laid the landmines in our territory.

We would like to thank the Italian Government, which, at a joint committee meeting convened in July this year in an attempt to deal with the vestiges of the past and to eliminate all forms of colonialism, decided to try to cooperate with us so that we can reclaim the territory in which landmines were laid during the Second World War.

Furthermore, the Convention did not discuss the security considerations of some States whose territory is so vast that they are unable to provide for their own protection by means of their own security measures.

For all those reasons, my delegation abstained on the vote on draft resolution N in document A/53/584.

Mr. Jayanama (Thailand): We wish to explain our abstention on resolution H, entitled "Regional disarmament", introduced by Belarus. We abstained not because we wish to depart from our belief in non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, but because we know that a nuclear-weapon-free zone in any region will be effective only if it receives the support of the countries concerned in the region. If that is forthcoming in the future, Thailand will be pleased to support such a resolution.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote.

I call on the representative of Algeria on a point of order.

Mr. Mesdoua (Algeria) (*interpretation from French*): My delegation regrets the fact that document A/53/584 was made available in all languages only yesterday. We hope that in the future documents on which we are working will be available in good time and in all the languages of the Organization so that delegations can be properly prepared. We hope that steps will be taken so that that situation is not repeated in the future.

The Acting President: The Secretariat has duly noted that comment.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 71?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 72

Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

Report of the First Committee (A/53/585)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it seven draft resolutions recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 24 of its report. I shall put these draft resolutions to the Assembly one by one. After all the decisions have been taken, representatives will have the opportunity to explain their votes or positions.

We turn first to draft resolution A, entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa".

The First Committee adopted draft resolution A without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution A was adopted (resolution 53/78 A).

The Acting President: Draft resolution B is entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific".

The First Committee adopted draft resolution B without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution B was adopted (resolution 53/78 B).

The Acting President: Draft resolution C is entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa.

The First Committee adopted draft resolution C without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution C was adopted (resolution 53/78 C).

The Acting President: Draft resolution D is entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons".

A separate vote has been requested on the eighth preambular paragraph.

If there is no objection, I shall first put to the vote the eighth preambular paragraph.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Chile, Cyprus, Georgia, Honduras, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, Marshall Islands, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, San Marino, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

The eighth preambular paragraph of draft resolution D was retained by 103 votes to 39, with 21 abstentions.

The Acting President: We shall now take a decision on draft resolution D as a whole.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, China, Cyprus, Georgia, Honduras, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, Marshall Islands, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, San Marino, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

Draft resolution D was adopted by 111 votes to 39, with 22 abstentions (resolution 53/78 D).

The Acting President: Draft resolution E is entitled "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme".

The First Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution E was adopted (resolution 53/78 E).

The Acting President: Draft resolution F is entitled "United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament".

The First Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution F was adopted (resolution 53/78 F).

The Acting President: Draft resolution G is entitled "United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services".

The First Committee adopted draft resolution G without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution G was adopted (resolution 53/78 G).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 72?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 73

Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session

Report of the First Committee (A/53/586)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on two draft resolutions recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 10 of its report.

We turn first to draft resolution A, entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

The First Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution A was adopted (resolution 53/79 A).

The Acting President: Draft resolution B is entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".

The First Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution B was adopted (resolution 53/79 B).

The Acting President: May I take it that is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 73?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 74

The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

Report of the First Committee (A/53/587)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 9 of its report.

A separate vote has been requested on the sixth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution.

If there is no objection, I shall put to the vote the sixth preambular paragraph.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

India, Israel

Abstaining:

Cuba, Pakistan

The sixth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution was retained by 162 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions.

The Acting President: I shall now put to the vote the draft resolution recommended in paragraph 9 of document A/53/587, as a whole.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Norway, Singapore, Trinidad and Tobago

The draft resolution was adopted by 158 votes to 2, with 11 abstentions (resolution 53/80).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 74?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 75

Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

Report of the First Committee (A/53/588)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

The First Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 53/81).

The Acting President: May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to conclude its consideration of agenda item 75?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 76

Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

Report of the First Committee (A/53/589)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The First Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 53/82).

The Acting President: May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to conclude its consideration of agenda item 76?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 77

Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)

Report of the First Committee (A/53/590)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The First Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 53/83).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 77?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 78

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

Report of the First Committee (A/53/591)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

The First Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes also to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 53/84).

The Acting President: May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to conclude its consideration of agenda item 78?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 79

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Report of the First Committee (A/53/592)

The Acting President: The General Assembly will now take action on the draft decision recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 11 of its report.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

None

Abstaining:

Bhutan, India, Lebanon, Mauritius, Syrian Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania

The draft decision was adopted by 164 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 79?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 80

Rationalization of the work and reform of the agenda of the First Committee

Report of the First Committee (A/53/593)

The Acting President: May I consider that the General Assembly decides to take note of the report of the First Committee on this item?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 80?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of all the reports of the First Committee.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

United Nations

A/53/PV.80

General Assembly

Fifty-third Session

80th plenary meeting
Monday, 7 December 1998, 10 a.m.
New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Opertti .... (Uruguay)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 8 (*continued*)

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: reports of the General Committee

Third report of the General Committee (A/53/250/Add.2)

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): This morning, the General Assembly will first take up the third report of the General Committee concerning the allocation of agenda item 167 and a request by the Dominican Republic for the inclusion in the agenda of an additional item.

Paragraph 1 of the report in document A/53/250/Add.2, indicates the General Committee's decision to recommend to the General Assembly that agenda item 167, entitled "Armed aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo", be considered directly in plenary meeting.

May I take it that the General Assembly decides to consider this item directly in plenary meeting?

It was so decided.

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): Paragraph 2 of the report indicates the General Committee's decision to recommend to the General Assembly that the item entitled "Observer status for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in the General Assembly" be included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-fourth session.

May I take it that the General Assembly decides to include in the provisional agenda of the fifty-fourth session this additional item?

It was so decided.

Request for the inclusion of an additional sub-item: note by the Secretary-General (A/53/235)

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): In his note contained in document A/53/235, the Secretary-General informs members that he has received notification of the resignation of Mr. Tadanori Inomata (Japan) from the membership of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee, effective on 1 January 1999. Accordingly, the General Assembly will be required at its current session to appoint a person to fill the remainder of the term of office of Mr. Inomata, which expires on 31 December 2000.

In order to enable the General Assembly to take the required action, it will be necessary to request the inclusion of an additional sub-item, entitled "Appointment of a member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee" under agenda item 17, "Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments".

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one month of the date of the meeting*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, Room C-178. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

Unless there is any objection, may I take it that the General Assembly agrees that the provision of rule 40 of the rules of procedure, which would require a meeting of the General Committee on the question of the inclusion of this sub-item on the agenda, can be waived?

It was so decided.

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): May I take it that the General Assembly, on the proposal of the Secretary-General, wishes to include an additional sub-item in the agenda of the current session entitled "Appointment of a member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee"?

It was so decided.

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): Given the nature of the sub-item, may I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to allocate the additional sub-item to the Fifth Committee?

It was so decided.

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): The Chairman of the Fifth Committee will be informed of the decision just taken.

Agenda item 3 (*continued*)

Credentials of representatives to the fifty-third session of the General Assembly

Special report of the Credentials Committee (A/53/726)

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): The draft resolution recommended by the Credentials Committee in paragraph7 of its report reads as follows:

> "*The General Assembly,*
>
> "*Having considered* the special report of the Credentials Committee and the recommendation contained therein,
>
> "*Approves* the special report of the Credentials Committee."

As there are no speakers on this item, we shall proceed to consider the draft resolution recommended by the Credentials Committee in paragraph 7 of the special report.

We shall now take action on the recommendation of the Credentials Committee set forth in paragraph 7 of the special report.

The Credentials Committee adopted this draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 53/23 B).

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 3.

Agenda item 36

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Report of the Secretary-General (A/53/672)

Draft resolution (A/53/L.60)

Amendment (A/53/L.61)

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): I call on the representative of Poland to introduce draft resolution A/53/L.60.

Mr. Wyzner (Poland): In my capacity as representative of Minister Bronislaw Geremek, the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/53/L.60, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe", on behalf of the 44 sponsors listed in the document and Tajikistan, which has joined the original list.

Before proceeding to discuss the substance of the draft resolution, I wish at the outset to associate the delegation of Poland with the statement which will be made later in the course of our debate by the representative of Austria on behalf of the European Union. Allow me also to take this opportunity to welcome Ambassador Giancarlo Aragona, Secretary-General of the OSCE, whose presence in this Hall today is a token of the ever closer contacts and cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE.

The risks and challenges to security in today's world are so complex and multifaceted that no organization is capable of dealing with them on its own. Hence, the close cooperation between different actors on the international scene that we are witnessing today is not only a positive development, but also a prerequisite for an effective response by the international community to contemporary crises and conflicts. The examples of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and, most recently, Kosovo, as well as of conflicts in other regions of the world, fully confirm that statement.

It is only through cooperation that appropriate conditions can be created for the optimum use of the comparative advantages of all the organizations involved in a given crisis or conflict. In this respect, among the guiding principles being implemented by the Polish chairmanship-in-office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as well as by our predecessors, have been complementarity of actions and the best possible use of the unique potential of each and every organization and institution to tackle security problems in the OSCE area and the avoidance of sterile competition. We have been promoting the view that all partners should preserve their respective identities while cooperating in a non-hierarchical manner.

As an inclusive and open framework for interaction, the OSCE has been focusing particular attention on the question of promoting a synergy of efforts in the field of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. It has been striving to work towards an efficient and flexible system of cooperative security, based on comparative advantages of different organizations, enabling them to combine their resources and capabilities to respond effectively to threats and challenges in the OSCE area.

Fostering the ties of cooperation between the OSCE and the United Nations has been one of the important items on the agenda of the Polish Chairman-in-Office, who has consistently encouraged the forging of very close contacts between the OSCE and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, in both New York and Vienna, as well as in field missions and operations. Such encouragement has in particular been given to the heads of the OSCE missions. In all those endeavours, we have enjoyed the full understanding, cooperation and support of the remaining members of the OSCE "troika", namely, Denmark and Norway, and those of the whole membership of the OSCE. To all of them I should like to express our deep gratitude.

From that perspective, the excellent report of the United Nations Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe is a source of particular satisfaction for the OSCE and its Chairman-in-Office. Having registered the numerous examples which illustrate the close working relationship between the two Organizations, the Secretary-General concludes that during the past year cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE has significantly increased and improved, both at the headquarters level and in terms of concrete collaboration in the field. The foundation for future cooperation has been strengthened.

Draft resolution A/53/L.60 acknowledges the increasing contribution of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security within its own geographical area through specific activities in all dimensions of security, whether political, military, human or economic. It also notes with appreciation the further improvement of cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the OSCE. While referring to specific conflicts and areas of tension in the OSCE region where practical cooperation between the two Organizations has been continuing, it also highlights new developments, such as the establishment by the OSCE — following the adoption of Security Council resolution 1203 (1998) — of the Kosovo Verification Mission, the contribution of the OSCE to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1160 (1998) relating to the Kosovo crisis, new elements of the OSCE mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the fields of reform of the police, the judiciary and human rights, the OSCE's furnishing of the overall framework for the Group of Friends of Albania, or the assumption by OSCE civilian police monitors of the responsibilities of the United Nations Police Support Group in the Danubian region of Croatia.

In the field of promoting human rights and building democracy, the draft resolution captures the dynamism of the relationship between the two organizations by noting with appreciation the agreements concluded between the main partners from both organizations: on the United Nations side, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and on the OSCE side, the secretariat of that organization and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

Let me here invoke the message of the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, to the Seventh Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, held in Oslo last week, in which he said that, in the case of the OSCE, the promise contained in his programme for United Nations reform,

> "that regional organizations would 'increasingly become partners of the United Nations in all activities related to the maintenance of international peace and security, including conflict prevention', ... is well on the way to fulfilment". (*Press release SG/SM/6816*)

The notable success of the Oslo meeting of the Ministerial Council, at which a ministerial declaration and a number of important decisions were adopted, has indeed fulfilled those expectations.

Finally, allow me to express my sincere hope that the draft resolution before us, which is sponsored by an overwhelming majority of the States members of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, will attract the broadest possible support and will be adopted by consensus.

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): I call on the representative of Azerbaijan to introduce the amendment to draft resolution A/53/L.60 contained in document A/53/L.61.

Mr. Kouliev (Azerbaijan) (*interpretation from Russian*): I should like to introduce an amendment by the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan (A/53/L.61) to draft resolution A/53/L.60, on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

The reasons for proposing this amendment are valid and are based on principle. Operative paragraph 12 of draft resolution A/53/L.60 does not address the core of the problem to which it refers and departs from language adopted by the General Assembly at previous sessions. This matter directly involves the highest interests of my country, its sovereignty and its territorial integrity. The sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan have been repeatedly reaffirmed by the international community, in particular by the Security Council in its resolutions on the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict in and around the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan: Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993).

The Secretary-General, in previous and current reports on the agenda item under consideration (A/50/564, A/52/450 and A/53/672), has unequivocally defined this matter, ascertaining that Nagorny Karabakh is an integral part of Azerbaijan.

The text of the amendment we are proposing is not new and is well known to all of us. Three times before, at its forty-ninth, fifty-first and fifty-second sessions, the General Assembly adopted draft resolutions that included such a paragraph. Its substance relies fully on the relevant provision of resolution 49/13, which was adopted without vote, by a consensus that included Armenia; it repeats the relevant paragraph of resolution 51/57 and of last year's resolution 52/22. Regrettably, the drafters of document A/53/L.60 failed to reflect that paragraph in the draft resolution.

Emphasizing the exceptional importance of this matter to our country, the delegation of Azerbaijan calls on Member States to do as they did in the last two years: to reaffirm their principled support for Azerbaijan and to adopt our amendment, contained in document A/53/L.61.

Mr. Sucharipa (Austria): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. In addition, the Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union — Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia — and the associated country Cyprus align themselves with this statement.

The European Union welcomes the fact that during the last year the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) have further intensified their cooperation and the coordination of their activities, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General (A/53/672) on the subject.

The OSCE, as a pan-European and transatlantic security organization, has become a key forum for the management of the dramatic changes that have occurred in Europe in recent years. The European Union, as a central pillar of integration, stability and prosperity in Europe, has contributed to the strengthening of the OSCE and will continue to do so. We remain committed to the enhanced political effectiveness of the OSCE and to the strengthening of its operational capability. We support the role of the OSCE as a primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in the OSCE region.

Further strengthening of the OSCE will enable it to better assume its responsibilities as a regional organization as defined in Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. The emerging division of labour between the United Nations and regional organizations is visible in a series of operations and endeavours that the United Nations and the OSCE have undertaken jointly or consecutively.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Union is pleased with the by and large orderly and peaceful course of the elections held under the supervision of the OSCE and considers them to be an important step in the continued peace process. We note in particular the increased Bosnian involvement in the election process.

It is now of the utmost importance that the elected institutions start to work effectively. Attention must be paid to the full implementation of the Peace Agreement, in particular to making significant progress in the return of refugees and displaced persons, especially in minority areas. Equally pressing is the need for reform of the judiciary and the media and the passing of a permanent election law. The OSCE is cooperating closely with the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina and other important actors to attain these goals. We also deem crucial the establishment of an ombudsperson for human rights in the Republika Srpska. The role of the OSCE special representatives in arms control and stabilization measures remains one of particular impact and importance.

The OSCE has taken over the civilian police monitoring functions in Croatia from the United Nations this year. This shift in responsibilities makes continuous coordination and cooperation between these organizations indispensable. A coordinated effort by the international community, including the OSCE mission, is crucial. The European Union has made additional police officers available to enable OSCE police monitoring to fulfil its new tasks.

Indeed, this year the OSCE has experienced another quantum leap in its activities. The OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission is undoubtedly the greatest challenge the OSCE has yet undertaken. The Mission, with a projected strength of about 2,000 verifiers, not only is unprecedented in size, but also represents a new quality of activities. This new operation underlines the growing importance of the organization in the field of active conflict management.

The main purpose of the Kosovo Verification Mission in its first phase is to verify compliance with Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998) and 1199 (1998). Although tens of thousands of displaced persons have still not been able to return to their homes, the Verification Mission has contributed to facilitating conditions on the ground so that all but a very few displaced persons who had been living in the open until recently have now been able to find shelter.

A key task of the Mission in its initial phase is to verify the maintenance of a ceasefire by all elements, which must be scrupulously adhered to by all parties to the conflict. The operation is not without risk, and we highly value the importance the Mission attaches to the security of all its members.

The sheer presence of the Mission is also contributing to the endeavour to find a political solution to the conflict. Once an agreement is reached between the parties to the conflict, the Kosovo Verification Mission will play an active role in its implementation — in election supervision, assistance in the establishment of Kosovo institutions, police force development, et cetera.

The role of the OSCE in Albania is of equally great importance to the development of that country. We fully support the Head of Presence in Tirana who, in the context of the Group of Friends of Albania, is charged with channelling the attention of the international community and expressing its concerns to the Albanian authorities.

The European Union also remains deeply concerned with all the regional issues in the Transcaucasus and will work towards a resolution of conflicts in the region on the basis of OSCE decisions.

In Nagorny Karabakh, the European Union hopes that substantial progress can be made in finding a basis for a negotiated settlement to the conflict that will be acceptable to all parties.

In Moldova, the European Union regrets that we have seen no major improvements in the situation in the Transdniester in 1998. The Union welcomes the decision reached on the Transdniester region of Moldova through the facilitation of the OSCE mission to Moldova and the Russian and Ukrainian mediators. The European Union also urges all sides to work flexibly on the question of a special status for this region within Moldova and urges early Russian withdrawal of its troops, weapons and ammunition from the region. A first step may be to withdraw unstable and dangerous ammunition.

In Georgia, continuing violent incidents in Abkhazia are deeply worrying. The Union fully supports the efforts undertaken by the United Nations within the framework of the Geneva peace process to engage the parties in a direct dialogue. The role of the OSCE is one of providing reinforcement for the efforts of the United Nations.

The European Union attaches special importance to the cooperation between the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation. We welcome the admission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the group of Partners for Cooperation, and we look forward to its contribution to the work of the OSCE. Furthermore, the European Union appreciates the consistent and constructive role Japan and the Republic of Korea are playing in the OSCE as Partners for Cooperation.

The European Union recognizes the importance of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Representative on Freedom of the Media. The orientation of the democratization activities of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights has fully borne fruit. A new approach towards election monitoring has proved beneficial in the concrete instances mentioned previously.

It is this dynamic development of the OSCE'S role on the ground that calls for the establishment of a solid conceptual bedrock in the form of a politically binding charter on European security, reflecting, in particular, the invigorated role of the OSCE and the vital importance of inter-institutional cooperation on the basis of a platform for cooperative security. Equally, it will be important that the final product of this work can be perceived by each and every participating State as real added value for addressing its respective security concerns. The European Union believes that such an objective is attainable. The guidelines we adopted at the Copenhagen meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council set the right framework. They should therefore remain the touchstone for the work on the security charter. The European Union welcomes the conclusions of the ministerial meeting held in Oslo last week, which provided a new momentum for the ongoing discussion in this respect.

In concluding, allow me, in the name of the members of the European Union, to pay special tribute to the effectiveness of the Polish Chairmanship, without which the OSCE could not have met the great challenges of this year's activities. I would also like to express our appreciation to the delegation of the Polish Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE for its excellent work. We look forward to working closely with the Norwegian delegation, the incoming holder of the chairmanship-in-office.

Last but not least, let me also express our deep appreciation for the untiring work and continuous efforts displayed with great diplomatic skill by the Secretary-General of the OSCE, Ambassador Aragona.

Mr. Varšo (Slovakia): At the outset, let me thank the Permanent Representative of Poland, in his capacity as representative of the chairmanship-in-office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), for introducing draft resolution A/53/L.60. Slovakia has the honour to be a sponsor of the draft resolution, and we wish it to be adopted today by consensus.

I would also like to welcome Ambassador Giancarlo Aragona, Secretary-General of the OSCE, whose presence at this General Assembly plenary meeting underscores the importance of the cooperation between the two organizations.

Slovakia fully supports and has aligned itself with the statement just made by the Permanent Representative of Austria on behalf of the European Union. Allow me now to make a few additional comments on behalf of my delegation.

In this new era of opportunity, regional organizations can significantly contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security if their activities are undertaken in a manner consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, and if their relationship with the United Nations is based on effective coordination and complementarity. Under the Charter, the Security Council has, and will continue to have, primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. However, regional action can not only lighten the burden of the Council but can also contribute to a deeper sense of participation and democratization in international affairs.

The European continent, as a primary battlefield of the cold-war era, has witnessed many changes and extremely different political and social conditions in its various subregions. While the western part has enjoyed democracy and prosperity for decades and consequently played a leading role in the integration of Europe, the rest of the continent has been facing the harsh consequences of the authoritarian regimes which were in power in a vast portion of this region in the past. Furthermore, human rights violations, ethnic tensions, deep-rooted hatred, mistrust and numerous refugees and displaced persons are symptomatic of most of today's conflicts, which the OSCE region has been facing since the collapse of the bipolar world.

Creating a new comprehensive security model for Europe is the common responsibility of every actor involved, and OSCE has proved to be an important element in this regard. Coincidentally, the seventh session of the OSCE Ministerial Council was held in Oslo a few days ago. Slovakia welcomes its conclusions, which we believe will provide further impetus to efforts to find the right place for OSCE in the developing security architecture of Europe.

Slovakia supports the enhancement of the role of OSCE as a primary instrument of preventive diplomacy, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in the OSCE region. OSCE has gained valuable experience and expertise in those areas. It currently has 10 missions in the field as well as the Assistance Group to Chechnya, the Presence in Albania and the Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus. The human dimension has been a priority focus for OSCE action from the very beginning, and we believe that OSCE should keep it this way. Respect for and the promotion of human rights, the elimination of all forms of discrimination, and free and independent media are basic prerequisites for a viable democracy.

My delegation welcomes the latest report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and OSCE, which proves how extensive and fruitful cooperation can be between the United Nations and a regional organization. This cooperation allows each organization to utilize its comparative advantages and, in many cases, enables the United Nations to receive intelligence and information analysis beyond its own capacity. Moreover, as the OSCE monitoring mission in the Danube region of Croatia proves, regional organizations can be a valuable part of the United Nations exit strategy from a country in conflict by playing a leading role in the successor arrangements which are established after the United Nations peacekeeping operation is withdrawn from the country.

The monitoring and enforcement of an arms embargo imposed by the Security Council in order to prevent the illegal flow of arms and related *matériel* to a country of conflict can be another area of fruitful cooperation between the two organizations. We encourage the Secretary-General to further work on modalities of the establishment of a comprehensive regime to monitor the implementation of the prohibitions imposed by Security Council resolution 1160 (1998), which was recently initiated during consultations among the United Nations Secretariat, OSCE and other European regional and subregional arrangements.

My delegation fully concurs with the Secretary-General that during the past year, multifaceted cooperation between the United Nations and OSCE has significantly increased and improved, both at the headquarters level and in the field, thus laying a very solid foundation for cooperation in the future. Nevertheless, in our view, there is room for further improvement and enhancement of the interaction between the two organizations. We believe that the establishment of a United Nations liaison office to OSCE in Vienna could be a useful step in this regard, as could the convening of a workshop which would further elaborate the comparative advantages of the two organizations. The aim would be to ensure results-oriented planning and collaboration and to make better use of the resources of the international community in the interests of the countries being assisted.

Slovakia supports all measures aimed at strengthening the stability of Europe. It has been actively participating in a number of OSCE missions in the field as well as in United Nations peacekeeping operations in the region, such as the OSCE Verification Mission in Kosovo and the United Nations mission in the Danube region of Croatia, to mention a few. In our view, a new comprehensive security model for Europe should be based on the principles of cooperation, coordination and the mutual reinforcement of existing relevant international institutions. It should also include all the dimensions of the Helsinki process: security, political, human rights, economic and environmental. My country stands ready to lend its full support to efforts towards this end.

Miss Miller (Malta): The changing dynamic of global politics during recent years has necessitated complex responses to complex problems, particularly in the field of international peace and security. As is well known, the present decade has been characterized by vicious ethnic and regional conflicts, the disintegration of

States and the creation of new ones — events that have produced upheavals of a magnitude not seen for decades.

Rather than shirking its responsibilities, the United Nations has responded by broadening its peacekeeping mandates and expanding its activities in the important fields of human rights and humanitarian assistance.

Given the already stretched resources of the United Nations, we have realized that it is unrealistic to expect this Organization to shoulder all the burdens. My country has constantly maintained that cooperation with regional organizations in peacekeeping and other areas of international security is a practical and necessary way to move forward in the effort to cope with the international community's present and future challenges.

This was precisely why, in Helsinki in 1992, Malta proposed that the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) declare itself a regional organization under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. The arrangements that have since emerged have led to qualitative change in the OSCE, giving it a peacekeeping role in Europe and linking its activities in a complementary fashion to those of the United Nations.

We therefore commend the Secretary General's continued efforts to consolidate links with the OSCE and welcome his expressed intention to create a real partnership between regional organizations and the United Nations based on a more structured, rational and cost-effective division of labour. We consider that apart from institutional benefits reaped through regular contact between the United Nations and the OSCE, what is more relevant is the increased cooperation in the field in the different parts of the OSCE area. The Secretary-General's report on cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE is a clear indication of the serious efforts that are being made towards that end.

An assessment of the role played by the OSCE points to the significant benefits that can be derived from collaboration between the various United Nations and OSCE missions. It is evident from the Secretary-General's report that the OSCE is playing an increasingly important and active role in the European region. From Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Albania to Georgia, Tajikistan and Nagorny Karabakh in Azerbaijan, the OSCE is making an important and positive contribution to regional peace and security, and therefore, by extension, to international peace and security as well.

The recent experience in Kosovo, for example, has demonstrated very clearly the advantage of utilizing regional organizations in the field. In Oslo last week, OSCE Foreign Ministers also endorsed the rapid establishment and operation of the OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission. The responsibility of the OSCE with respect to the Kosovo Verification Mission — to monitor compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions — proves concretely that the United Nations can operate effectively and efficiently by resorting to the comparative advantages of regional organizations in order to implement agreements concerning dispute resolution, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

At Oslo last week, Malta's Deputy Prime Minster and Minister for Foreign Affairs also reiterated that the OSCE had made its mark among international organizations in the field of conflict prevention and the enforcement of human rights. This is seen in the various OSCE instruments and structures that are in place in trouble spots across Europe. The OSCE's undertaking with respect to post-conflict rehabilitation in Bosnia not only is of an unprecedented scale; recently it has also successfully assisted the Albanian Government in conducting a referendum on the Constitution of Albania.

Regional organizations are also well positioned to play an important role in early warning mechanisms, confidence- and security-building measures and preventive diplomacy. Preventive action is indeed an area where the United Nations is rightly placing increasing emphasis. The Secretary-General spoke of the need for a "culture of prevention" when he addressed the third high-level meeting between the United Nations and regional organizations last July. We concur with this assertion and regard as very opportune the focus during that meeting on the potential for greater interaction and cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in the field of conflict prevention.

We are also of the firm view that, besides their importance in conflict prevention and resolution, regional organizations have a complementary role to play in the broader aspects of security, namely, the economic, social and human dimensions. Malta has consistently advocated the importance of economic and social justice grounded in the principles of freedom, democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights.

Activities undertaken with regard to the human dimension by the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) remain central to the consolidation of peace, democratic governance and institution-building in the OSCE's region of operation. In this context, Malta continues to support the holding of informal high-level tripartite consultations between the United Nations, the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

We welcome in particular the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the ODIHR. We view this as an important contribution in terms not only of strengthening institutional links but also of the more practical and concrete outcome that such collaboration will have.

We also commend the further enhancement of interaction between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the OSCE, as well as the joint projects between the United Nations Development Programme and the OSCE, in the advancement of democratic institution-building and good governance and the promotion of human and minority rights. In the same vein, we feel that the cooperation between the OSCE and the Economic Commission for Europe is a valuable component of the structural links between the United Nations and the OSCE whereby importance is given to the economic dimension of security.

Since the beginning of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe process in the 1970s, Malta has consistently promoted the idea that security and stability in Europe is inextricably linked to security and stability in the Mediterranean region. This is a fundamental precept that is now generally accepted. Malta has actively contributed to the evolution of the OSCE process and has also promoted the Mediterranean dimension of this process. The strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean is an important element for stability in the OSCE region. Consistent engagement by successive Malta Governments has contributed to the greater involvement of the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation in the work of the OSCE. Malta will continue to work to further this relationship.

May I here refer to the annual OSCE Mediterranean seminar, which was held in Malta this past October. The theme of the seminar was "The human dimension of security, promoting democracy and the rule of law". It involved the broad participation of the OSCE community and a number of international organizations. Of particular significance was the presence of representatives of United Nations bodies, particularly UNHCR, and the interest of other bodies, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Such increasing mutual involvement between the United Nations and the activities taking place within the realm of regional organizations can only assist in bringing about greater proximity among structures and consequently enhancing cooperation.

May I also add that that seminar was described by all participants as having provided the ground for a richer discussion than is normally found at other, similar events. My country hopes that this spirit of open and frank interaction between participants will continue to prevail at forthcoming gatherings of the OSCE. Malta looks forward to renewing this experience in February 1999, when it hosts another OSCE seminar, which will deal with the economic and environmental aspects of security in the OSCE area.

It is now five years since the United Nations and the OSCE formally accepted the arrangements described in the framework for cooperation and coordination between the two organizations. During this short period of time, it has become increasingly evident that the establishment of such cooperative ties with the OSCE at the institutional and field levels was timely.

As diverse threats to the security of States continue to develop, it is through collaboration and cooperation that stability within and among States can be guaranteed. This underscores the necessity to actively pursue our efforts to further strengthen and consolidate the links between these two organizations.

Mr. Yel'chenko (Ukraine): The report that the Secretary- General has presented in document A/53/672 strengthens our firm belief that there is a wide range of activities in which the two authoritative organizations — the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) — can and should continue to develop effective cooperation and interaction.

We note with satisfaction that during the past few years cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE, demonstrated at different levels, has undoubtedly become an important factor of global and regional security.

Of special importance is the development of close coordination and interaction between the two organizations in such important fields as early warning and preventive diplomacy, crisis management, arms control and disarmament and post-crisis stabilization and rehabilitation efforts. We have been able to see this in the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially during the implementation of the Dayton Accords.

Recently, this became even more obvious when it came to the launching of a peaceful settlement process in Kosovo. We are very hopeful that the activities of the OSCE Verification Mission in Kosovo will prove the powerful potential of this regional organization.

Current developments in other areas of the OSCE region also deserve the attention of the OSCE membership, in particular, the unresolved conflicts in Nagorny Karabakh of Azerbaijan, in Abkhazia and South Ossetia of Georgia and in the Transdniester region of the Republic of Moldova.

As the Foreign Minister of Ukraine, Mr. Borys Tarasyuk, underlined in his statement at the meeting of the OSCE Council of Ministers in Oslo on 2 December of this year,

> "the Kosovo lesson should be a warning for all of us that similar 'frozen' conflicts may erupt at any time, turning into a source of new dangers".

It is evident now that such "frozen" conflicts not only undermine the stability of newly independent States, but also make them potentially weak partners in building the new architecture of regional security. The absence of essential progress in resolving them can also undermine the prestige of both the United Nations and the OSCE.

Against this background, Ukraine strongly advocates the need to give a boost to the processes of the settling of those conflicts on the basis of securing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova, in accordance with fundamental norms and principles of international law.

Strengthening the role of the OSCE will enable it to better assume the responsibilities of a regional organization, in particular in the drafting of a model of an all-embracing security for Europe in the twenty-first century. Ukraine attaches top priority to elaborating the future charter on European security as the platform of cooperative security, the core of which would be cooperation on the basis of equal partnership between the leading security organizations of the European continent, with the active involvement of the United Nations. We believe that it will be a mutually beneficial cooperation.

Ukraine also favours the strengthening of cooperation between the two organizations in the humanitarian areas, especially in the settlement of issues related to forced migration, refugees and displaced persons. Hence, it would be necessary to enhance the interaction between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the High Commissioner on National Minorities. In this context, we highly appreciate the joint efforts undertaken by UNHCR and ODIHR to help Ukraine in solving the citizenship issues of the formerly deported people returning to their original homeland in the Crimea.

Our delegation also believes that the economic and ecological dimensions need to be further explored as important areas for cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE. In particular, we feel it necessary to intensify the cooperation between the OSCE and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, notably in providing assistance to the countries with economies in transition.

In conclusion, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Poland, a friendly neighbour of Ukraine, for the remarkable and efficient manner in which that country has executed its responsibilities as the OSCE Chairman-in-Office during 1998. Let me also offer our best wishes to Norway, which is about to take over this important mission for the next year.

Mrs. Fritsche (Liechtenstein): Among the many anniversaries which the General Assembly is commemorating this year, there is one that attracts relatively little attention but is certainly worthy of our interest and appreciation. It was five years ago that the General Assembly decided in its resolution 48/5 to invite the then Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe to participate as an observer in the sessions and the work of the United Nations. Both organizations have undergone very important changes and developments in the meantime, and the cooperation and coordination between the two has been steadily enhanced and improved.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is a regional arrangement under the terms of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, and the proliferation of challenges in the field of peacekeeping and post-conflict peace-building in the recent past has created the general necessity of a deeper and more operational involvement of such regional arrangements in these activities. This has been stated many times, most prominently by Secretary-General Kofi Annan in the context of his reform programme. We are gratified to see that the OSCE, like other regional arrangements, has developed its capacities to take on such responsibilities.

The report contained in document A/53/672 shows a wide range of activities where cooperation between the two organizations has proved to be extremely fruitful, and we would like to highlight only a few of them, which seem to be of particular interest for our Organization.

The enhanced cooperation of the OSCE with United Nations agencies which are active in the field is, in our opinion, a very positive development. Operational coordination with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has taken place in various countries, and the signing of a memorandum of understanding on 15 October 1998 is the expression of this close cooperation. Given the difficult challenges which UNHCR faces in many situations, we find it very useful that it has also maintained close contact with individual OSCE institutions, most notably the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the High Commissioner on National Minorities. We are fully convinced that UNHCR can greatly benefit from the expertise and experience of its OSCE partners. Of comparable importance is the cooperation between the United Nations Development Programme and OSCE institutions, which also concentrates on field operations. The activities carried out jointly in the area of electoral assistance seem to us particularly meaningful.

Avoiding duplication of activities is certainly a key element of the cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE, especially in the area of peacekeeping and conflict prevention. Effective coordination is required in order to ensure avoidance of such duplication, and it seems to us that the division of labour between the organizations is based on the recognition of this necessity. The OSCE has in some instances taken political responsibility in situations of which the United Nations has never been actively seized, such as the conflict in Chechnya, where OSCE mediation proved extremely useful in bringing the armed conflict to an end. Other situations have involved both organizations. The long-standing and important engagement of the OSCE in Bosnia and Herzegovina is well known, and after the expiration of the mandate of the United Nations Transitional Administration in Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium earlier this year, the OSCE took over the responsibility for monitoring compliance with the Basic Agreement of 1995. The outstanding interaction between the two organizations has ensured a smooth transition and steady progress towards bringing lasting peace to that area.

The most prominent example of OSCE involvement in issues on the agenda of the United Nations over the past year is certainly the situation in Kosovo, which has deteriorated dramatically since April. The cooperation on this issue of utmost sensitivity, which is of particular importance to us, can be regarded as a model for other situations in the future. Security Council resolution 1203 (1998) endorsed the agreement between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the OSCE, which has thus assumed the main responsibility for dealing with the Kosovo crisis.

The Kosovo Verification Mission is certainly the greatest challenge undertaken so far by the OSCE. Further cooperation and coordination will be needed, in particular with regard to the activities on the ground both of the OSCE and of United Nations agencies. We understand that pertinent efforts are being carried out to ensure optimal interaction in this respect. All these efforts can be successful, however, only if they lead to and are complemented by a lasting political solution to the Kosovo crisis. Such a solution has to be based on an enhanced status for Kosovo, a substantially greater degree of autonomy, and meaningful self-administration for the people of Kosovo in accordance with the rights guaranteed them under international law. Liechtenstein highly appreciates the efforts made to find a solution to this crisis and has contributed to the activities of the OSCE, as well as to those of humanitarian agencies which are active on the ground.

The General Assembly acknowledged in its resolution 52/22 the increasing contribution of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and we are grateful to note a continuation of this trend over the past year, as reflected in the draft resolution before us, which our delegation has again co-sponsored. While we highly appreciate the operational activities of the OSCE in this regard, we do attach equal importance to the conceptual work being carried out within the OSCE. There is an enhanced political will within the OSCE, as well as within the United Nations, to place stronger emphasis on the necessity of preventive action, especially through the prevention of conflicts.

The efforts to draft a charter on European security are a worthwhile and very important undertaking, which deserves our full support as a means of ensuring peace and stability in our region. We appreciate the exchange of views between OSCE and United Nations representatives on this project. Liechtenstein takes a keen interest in this process and expresses its hope that the charter will also contain elements which enable the OSCE to help prevent conflicts between communities and central Governments as well as among such communities, based on the principle of the self-determination of all peoples. It seems to us indispensable that a forward-looking charter that focuses on the prevention of conflicts in the region would provide a framework for preventing such tensions, which very often constitute the root causes for armed and other conflicts in Europe and, indeed, worldwide. We look forward to the timely adoption of a charter that will make a substantive contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security.

In conclusion, we would like to express our appreciation to Poland for its outstanding work as Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE. We look forward to continuing our work within the OSCE under the chairmanship of Norway in 1999.

Mr. Jusys (Lithuania): We have associated ourselves with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Austria on behalf of the European Union. I will now add the Lithuanian view on the agenda item, which concerns both the general issue of model cooperation between the United Nations and a regional arrangement, and the particular issue for us as a European State.

First, however, I would like to highly commend the contribution of Poland as the outgoing Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The upcoming chairmanship of Norway means another promising year for that unique regional organization, standing as firm and confident as ever on the threshold of the new millennium. We also welcome the presence here today of Mr. Giancarlo Aragona, the Secretary-General of the OSCE. We thank him for the efficient management of his well-performing secretariat.

Regional bodies are often better equipped to address regional issues than are global organizations. The advantages of "intimacy" with a region must always be heeded when selecting an instrument from among international institutions, without, of course, prejudice to relevant legal norms, such as the mandate of the United Nations Security Council. In his statement this year before the General Assembly, Mr. Valdas Adamkus, President of the Republic of Lithuania, emphasized that the United Nations

> "should interact with greater vigour in its endeavours with regional organizations that, in many cases, succeed in the areas where global forums fail. Europe has already provided us with an example of such productive interaction through concrete cooperation of the United Nations with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)." (*A/53/PV.10, p. 4*)

Europe is endowed with abundant regional and subregional establishments of various types, mandates, expertise and membership. Reliance on them in promoting universal values on the continent has proven useful in most cases. The OSCE has been one of the best examples. One can hardly think of any recent initiative aimed at restoring peace in areas of conflict around Europe that could have been undertaken by a single international organization. The advantages of each international institution involved have been utilized in achieving complex solutions in each case. Be it in Croatia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo or the Caucasus, everywhere we see a host of international actors doing great work in their respectively prescribed fields. The Lithuanian representatives who participated in many multilateral projects around Europe are witness to successful inter-institutional cooperation. The report of the United Nations Secretary-General demonstrates that the spirit of Chapter VIII is understood and being implemented wisely and efficiently.

The United Nations and the OSCE, the security dimensions of which are largely based on such confidence-building policies as conventional arms control, transparency in armaments and information sharing, can complement one another's efforts by acting together in response to security challenges. The degree of cooperation within the OSCE in the sphere of arms and weapons transparency can be exemplary to the United Nations and, through the United Nations, to other regions of the world. Committed to the principles of openness, predictability and confidence-building, Lithuania has expressed its readiness in particular cases to share more reciprocally relevant information with any OSCE member State than is required by the Vienna Document of 1994.

The pertinence of the OSCE to the goals of the United Nations is especially prominent in pan-European efforts to find systematic common grounds for European security. Europe has engaged in drafting a Document-Charter on European Security. The United Nations is contributing to this process, the fruits of which we hope may later repay our efforts as models for other regions and continents.

The celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights promotes the human dimension of the OSCE. Through many documents signed at the highest level, beginning with the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, the Europeans are bound by advanced and still developing standards of democracy, rule of law and human rights. Stricter standards, new norms and stronger enforcement mechanisms are being contemplated and devised. The achievements of the present and the future will be of universal value and applicability, and thus uphold the new meaning of the Universal Declaration, both regionally and worldwide.

We salute the cooperation in the human dimension between a number of international organizations in Europe and beyond, such as the regular exchange of information and joint actions between the United Nations, the OSCE, the Council of Europe and NATO. Events that deserve special recognition are the informal high-level tripartite consultations and target-oriented meetings between the United Nations, the OSCE and the Council of Europe held last January and April. Increasing cooperation between multilateral institutions beyond their deliberative chambers and their ability to demonstrate complementarity in the field is especially meaningful. We strongly encourage this development.

The institutionalized cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE internal structures and agencies — in particular between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Organization for Migration, on the one hand, and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the High Commissioner on National Minorities, on the other — is commendable. The memorandums of understanding concluded between the United Nations and the OSCE and their bodies, and the parallel sharing of work and responsibility in the field, especially in the countries of the Caucasus and the former Yugoslavia, demonstrate that cooperation is orderly and full-fledged, rather than being mere paperwork or random movements in hot spots.

The past year has not been good for the economies of many nations. The economic torrents that engulfed several Eastern European countries, including Russia, are generating regional and global repercussions. Under these circumstances, recourse to all available economic instruments has been timely. Neither the United Nations nor the OSCE has stood apart. They joined their efforts, primarily through the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the economic dimension of the OSCE, in the search for solutions, especially in such crucial areas as energy development in the OSCE area.

Lithuania has, to the best of its ability, made contributions aimed at relieving regional economic difficulties. Acting upon the fundamental principle of OSCE — good-neighbourly relations — and out of humanitarian concern, the Lithuanian Government has allotted $1.25 million for food and medical assistance to hospitals and other institutions in the Kaliningrad district of the Russian Federation that have suffered from the financial crisis.

Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter has special meaning for my country both this year and next year. We are currently presiding over the 10-member Council of the Baltic States. The mandate of the Council is directly complementary to the mandates of the United Nations and the OSCE. Fighting illegal migration and organized crime in the region, as well as strengthening the freedom of the press and the rights of national minorities, are among our priorities in steering the Council of the Baltic States. Special attention is also devoted to environmental issues and practical aspects of subregional economic cooperation.

Each unique in its own way, the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe together constitute a mutually complementary part of multilateral instruments for contacts among the peoples of Europe and around the world. We ought to make the best use of these potent tools. The draft resolution introduced by Poland invites us to do precisely that and deserves consensus adoption.

Mr. Kolby (Norway): I am honoured to address the General Assembly on the important agenda item on relations between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). First of all, I would like to commend Poland for its efficient chairmanship in 1998.

Norway is a sponsor of the draft resolution on cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE. As incoming Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE in 1999, we feel a special responsibility to draw the General Assembly's attention to the draft resolution and the importance of adopting it, if possible, by consensus.

The extensive cooperation over the past year between the United Nations and the OSCE has been thoroughly documented by the Secretary-General in his report, on which I congratulate him. The report shows that the cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE is becoming deeper and broader. This is not so much a reflection of the internal dynamism of interorganizational relations, but more a response to the real demands placed upon us as a result of the increasing multidimensionality of security, which requires increased coordination of organizations with varying mandates involving different aspects of security. The OSCE, as a regional organization under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, has developed into a major partner for the United Nations. Cooperation between our two organizations is vital if we are to effectively promote peace and stability in the OSCE region.

As the Secretary-General's report shows, one can begin to see the outline of an informal pattern of a division of labour between the OSCE and the United Nations, each alternately taking the lead or supporting the other in different areas within the OSCE region. The recently established OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission, mandated by the Security Council and led by the OSCE, is very much a case in point and is the largest endeavour the OSCE has ever undertaken. Norway has taken on the task of establishing the Kosovo Verification Mission headquarters, a task which we are in the process of completing and to which we will have contributed $21 million by June of next year. The establishment of the Kosovo Verification Mission will undoubtedly be one of the greatest challenges for the Norwegian OSCE chairmanship next year, and we will strive, in cooperation with, *inter alia*, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other United Nations agencies, to ensure that it is able to fulfil its mandate.

While the focus is at present very much on the situation in Kosovo, we must not forget the important cooperation going on between the United Nations and the OSCE, *inter alia*, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Croatia, in Albania, in Tajikistan, in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and in Georgia, areas that need our continued attention in the time ahead if further progress is to be achieved.

This extensive contact in the field has been bolstered by increased coordination between the United Nations and the OSCE at all levels, as described in detail in the Secretary-General's report. Norway welcomes this proliferation of contacts, which we regard as the result of the OSCE's evolution over the past decade into an organization capable of working together with and supplementing the United Nations in the areas of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation within the OSCE region.

At the recent OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Oslo, on 2 and 3 December, a decision was adopted regarding the Document-Charter on European Security. This involves, among other things, the so-called Platform for Cooperative Security — the development of non-hierarchical cooperation between those organizations and institutions concerned with the promotion of comprehensive security within the OSCE area. The United Nations and its agencies have been invited to contribute to the ongoing dialogue on this cooperation. This dialogue will continue in 1999.

As Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE in 1999, Norway will place great emphasis on maintaining and further developing ties between the OSCE and the United Nations. This entails taking steps to further practical cooperation in the field, as well as increasing coordination between the OSCE and the United Nations and its agencies, which constitute its main cooperation partners.

Mr. Lavrov (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): This past year has been noteworthy for the further substantial progress in the development of practical cooperation between the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations. Without exaggeration, one can say that cooperation carried out under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter has entered a qualitatively new stage, encompassing both increased coordination of efforts in resolving operational matters and the consolidation of institutional links between the two organizations on the basis of the framework agreement of 1993. This cooperation should also be focused on key issues for the international community, chief among which are the prevention and settlement of conflicts, peacekeeping and addressing the humanitarian aspects of security and development, including the monitoring of human rights and the rights of national minorities and displaced persons.

It is important that this cooperation be flexible, based on the principles of synergy, complementarity and maximum use of the comparative advantages of each organization — where necessary by bringing about a rational division of labour between them.

Effective development of the ties between the United Nations and the OSCE will promote the latter's establishment as a full-fledged regional organization in the terms of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, and will strengthen its central coordinating and organizing role on the European continent in the area of security.

One of the priority areas for cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE remains the growing overall European potential in peacekeeping, including the strengthening of its normative base in the context of the immutable Charter functions and prerogatives of the Security Council. We feel that there would be a positive significance to closer practical cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE in the drafting of common principles and approaches to peacekeeping operations, in particular in the highly relevant area of civilian police operations in peacekeeping.

The consistent strengthening of the involvement of the OSCE in the settlement of regional crises and conflicts is steadily leading to a situation where that organization may carry out its own peacekeeping operations, with the possible involvement of other multilateral mechanisms in the European and Atlantic region. The development of the OSCE's peacekeeping capacities should take place in close cooperation with the United Nations, relying on the Organization's experience and its Charter.

The cooperative experience that the United Nations and the OSCE have accumulated is a good basis from which to draw up a charter for European security. The expert contribution of the United Nations could be useful in the development of that charter, and in particular in the development of the Platform for Cooperative Security, which would determine the principles and parameters for cooperation among the various organizations in ensuring European security.

Elaborated at Russia's initiative, the charter is called upon, in the words of Russia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ivanov, "to lay a reliable foundation for the architecture of a peaceful, non-violent, safe and indivisible Europe of the twenty-first century". While we must consistently adhere to the agreement on a speedy completion of the charter, reached at the Oslo meeting of the OSCE Council of Ministers, joint efforts will be necessary to bring about the signature of that fundamental document at the next OSCE summit, in Istanbul.

Russia supports the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE in settling a number of regional conflicts in the area of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which should strengthen the established and proven negotiating formats. We welcome the growing support for the peace process in Tajikistan provided by the OSCE, in particular by promoting the establishment and implementation of an overall agreement on the restoration of peace and national harmony in that country. While we note the contribution of the OSCE to the efforts to settle the Nagorny Karabakh and Georgian Abkhaz conflicts, we feel that the OSCE would be well advised to work more in the areas best suited to it — for example, human rights monitoring, promoting the establishment of democratic institutions and observation of elections. In this connection, we welcome the development of cooperation between the OSCE and the Offices of the United Nations High Commissioners for Refugees and for Human Rights.

A serious impetus to the strengthening of the status of the OSCE as a central multilateral institution in the European and Atlantic region could be given by the growth of its leading role in practical international efforts to promote the settlement of the crisis in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. On the basis of the agreement with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the OSCE has decided to establish a Verification Mission in Kosovo, and this plan is supported by the Security Council. The Mission's role is to make an important contribution to a peaceful political settlement of the Kosovo crisis. While monitoring the implementation by the authorities of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and by the Kosovo Albanians of the relevant requirements of the Security Council, the OSCE observers will report regularly to the Security Council. It is precisely on the basis of that information that the Security Council will determine the degree of progress made in the implementation of its decisions.

The establishment of the OSCE Verification Mission in Kosovo represents a new stage of cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE in peacekeeping. For the first time, the United Nations has given the OSCE a mandate to carry out a large-scale peacekeeping operation. This decision, however, does not eliminate the need for harmonizing practical cooperation between the two organizations in Kosovo. Our assumption is that the collective efforts will succeed in finding an optimum format for this. It is important that the Mission be deployed as quickly as possible. Russia will take an active part in it and will promote its effective activities.

A new testimony to productive cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE in implementing the Peace Agreement in Bosnia was the cooperation in the preparation and holding of all Bosnian elections, which took place in September under the observation of the OSCE. The OSCE mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina should also remain in close contact with the structures of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in resolving such crucial problems as promoting guarantees of the rights of national minorities, resolving the problems of refugees and bringing about a normal functioning of the federal and municipal organs of power.

Effective coordination of effort between the two organizations has been ensured by a smooth passing of the baton from the United Nations to the OSCE in monitoring the activities of the local police in Croatia. Now the OSCE mission in Croatia has to carry out responsible additional work in the context of promoting adequate guarantees of human rights and the rights of national minorities, bearing in mind the continuing, well-known problems in this area.

We welcome the OSCE's initiative in implementing a coordinating role in international efforts to promote the stabilization, restoration and rehabilitation of Albania. That is a tangible contribution to strengthening security and stability in the entire Balkan region.

We note with satisfaction the intensification of contacts between the OSCE and the United Nations in the economic and environmental spheres, in particular with the United Nations Development Programme and the Economic Commission for Europe.

Russia will continue to energetically and consistently promote the enhancement of the practical results of cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE in the interests of strengthening global and regional security and cooperation.

Ms. Grčić Polić (Croatia): Croatia regards cooperation between the United Nations and regional security organizations as an essential part of the ongoing process of stimulating and consolidating peacekeeping and the peace-building initiatives through assistance in conflict management and the building of post-conflict societies, as well as through initiatives to build democratic processes and sustainable development. In this context, Croatia welcomes the ongoing effort by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to promote conflict prevention, strengthen democratic institutions and monitor respect for human and minority rights, in line with the conclusions contained in the Lisbon Summit Declaration. Croatia also appreciates the direct efforts of the OSCE for peace-building in such countries as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Tajikistan and, most recently, in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

As an active member of the OSCE, Croatia has contributed and will continue to contribute to these efforts. Croatia participated in the OSCE missions to monitor elections in Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Moldova, the Slovak Republic, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Montenegro and Ukraine. My country has closely cooperated with and supported OSCE activities in a variety of fields in Croatia, from the monitoring of human rights to cooperation in implementing domestic legislation on national minorities. Croatia welcomes the readiness of the OSCE in taking over the responsibilities of the United Nations Police Support Group in the Eastern Slavonia region and pledges that it will make its best efforts to continue the close cooperation that it enjoys with the Support Group so as to facilitate and promote confidence-building and reconstruction efforts in that and other areas of Croatia.

Croatia appreciates the role played by the OSCE in organizing and monitoring elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina and monitoring compliance with media standards, as mandated by the Dayton peace accords. My delegation also welcomes the efforts of the OSCE, in coordination with the United Nations, to help facilitate police and judicial reform.

Croatia welcomes the decision by the OSCE Permanent Council to establish the Kosovo Verification Mission, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1203 (1998). As a neighbour of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Croatia is vitally interested in the stability of its neighbours and, therefore, in a speedy resolution of the crisis in Kosovo. Croatia believes that all political issues, including the future status of Kosovo, must be resolved between the Belgrade authorities and the Kosovar Albanians through a genuinely democratic political process. Croatia would like to join others in condemning human rights violations and other violations perpetrated against the civilian population in Kosovo and reiterates that individuals responsible for crimes committed in Kosovo must be held to account.

Croatia welcomes the readiness of the international community to help facilitate this process through, among other things, the Verification Mission, and will support all efforts undertaken in this regard. My delegation wishes to see the Verification Mission fully operational as soon as possible. The continued involvement of the international community is indispensable for the maintenance of conditions conducive to the achievement of a political resolution of the crisis. The mandate of the Verification Mission will guarantee the active involvement of the international community in the Kosovo crisis until its final settlement, and it is in this context that Croatia will support any request by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to extend the mandate.

I should like to take this opportunity to once again reiterate the position of my Government with regard to the participation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the work of both the OSCE and the United Nations. The participation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as one of the five successor States of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in the OSCE and the United Nations, as well as in other international organizations and institutions, is conditional upon its submitting an application for membership and fulfilling the criteria for acceptance in these organizations, as is the case with any other new applicant. The cooperation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia with the OSCE or the United Nations cannot be linked to the question of its membership in these organizations. In this regard, I should like to remind representatives of the joint letter signed by the Foreign Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia and Slovenia contained in the annex to document A/53/190 of 24 July 1998, which spells out the joint position of those four successor States on this matter.

Croatia remains committed to the norms and principles of the OSCE in all their aspects, including their human, security and economic dimensions. Even though we are witness to the changing nature of needs and priorities both in the OSCE and in its region, it is comforting to note that the basic tenets adopted by the then Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe almost 25 years ago in Helsinki are still valid and still bearing fruit. Mechanisms that were so aptly developed and refined within or under the auspices of the OSCE, such as the Vienna Document or the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), have shown their longevity and efficiency to the present day. Croatia is convinced that the ongoing adaptation and refinement of these mechanisms to fit today's needs will strengthen them further and that the real challenges of the future role of the OSCE, as exemplified by the current crisis in Kosovo, will come not from the security dimension but from the human and economic dimensions.

Mr. Botnaru (Republic of Moldova): First of all, I would like to welcome Mr. Giancarlo Aragona, Secretary-General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), whose presence here underscores the importance of the cooperation between the two organizations.

The delegation of the Republic of Moldova fully associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Austria on behalf of the European Union. At the same time, I would like to take this opportunity to express in more detail some aspects of the position of the Republic of Moldova on this important issue.

Since 1975, the OSCE has been an instrument for preventing conflict, a champion of human rights and the rule of law. After the end of the cold war a new area of activity became necessary for the OSCE, especially in early warning and preventive diplomacy, arms control and disarmament and crisis management and post-crisis stabilization, including rehabilitation measures.

The report contained in document A/53/672 testifies to the increased cooperation between the two organizations in various specific areas. We note with satisfaction the conclusion of the Secretary-General that cooperation and coordination have improved during the last year. This is especially evident in the common work that has been done in the former Yugoslavia and Albania. An effective example of the productive cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE this year is the establishment and the beginning of the activity of the OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission. United Nations bodies must do everything possible to promote this new and important quality of OSCE activities.

My delegation also appreciates the fact that the report of the Secretary-General gives attention to the cooperation between the United Nations peacekeeping missions, programmes and agencies and OSCE missions in the countries which have emerged from the former Soviet Union. Despite the existence of an informal understanding that there is a division of labour between the two organizations, United Nations agencies and

OSCE missions could discover new areas for collaboration and mutual support in order to facilitate the resolution of the urgent problems and obstacles inside the newly independent countries.

The office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) resident representative in Moldova, which started its operations in 1993, cooperates fruitfully with the OSCE mission in the process of promoting democratic institution-building. As a result, a centre for human rights is currently being established. A new project under UNDP auspices is under consideration, the realization of which will increase the understanding between the populations of the two banks of the Nistru river, separated by the 1992 conflict.

While we highly appreciate the consistent conflict-resolving efforts of the United Nations and the OSCE in this area, my delegation considers that much remains to be done. Unfortunately, common to all the conflict situations in that area, regardless of which international organization is involved, is the lack of substantial progress in resolving such conflicts over the last year despite the substantial threat they pose to the security, territorial integrity and State sovereignty of those countries.

My delegation considers that in such situations all the potential of the two organizations must be used more resolutely without worrying about undermining the existing understanding on the so-called division of labour.

The need to do so also stems from the very nature of the OSCE, which is suited to occupy the middle ground between diplomacy and force. The essentially positive results that the OSCE was able to achieve in the former Yugoslavia were also made possible by the backing of strong, forceful arguments and clear Security Council resolutions.

Taking into consideration the practical experience of the Secretary-General in peacekeeping issues, his personal involvement, through a visit to the newly independent States at a suitable time, would be highly appreciated.

The OSCE mission is taking an active part in the search for solutions to the consequences of the conflict in the eastern part of the Republic of Moldova. Nonetheless, we continue to face difficulties in the negotiating process taking place with the cooperation of the OSCE and representatives of Russia and Ukraine as mediators. Unfortunately, even after four years, there has been no progress in bringing into force and implementing the Moldovan-Russian agreement of 24 October 1994.

As the President of my country stated in the General Assembly, the early, orderly and complete withdrawal of Russian troops, vast quantities of weapons and ammunition from the territory of the Republic of Moldova would considerably strengthen stability in the region while facilitating the process of settling the crisis.

Recently, the OSCE Foreign Ministers called for reinvigorated talks seeking to consolidate the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Moldova, while reaching an understanding on the status of the breakaway region. The OSCE also expressed concern at the lack of progress on the withdrawal of foreign troops from the region.

The Republic of Moldova welcomes the conclusions of the ministerial meeting in Oslo, which constitute a step forward in the direction of adapting the OSCE to new realities, in making the organization more effective by creating instruments to prevent crises and promote democracy, or by placing at its disposal the potential of other European and trans-Atlantic structures.

My delegation is fully aware that the complete implementation of the relevant decisions of the Budapest and Lisbon Summits will facilitate our positive attitude towards the process of adopting the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), the signature of which could be the main event of the next OSCE summit. It will also help the process of elaborating the charter on European security, as a result of which cooperation between the OSCE and the United Nations will achieve a new and widely recognized efficiency.

The economic dimension of cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE is extremely important now, when economies, particularly those in transition, face huge negative consequences of globalization. Moldova supports intensification of cooperation between the Economic Commission for Europe and the OSCE, especially with regard to the economic dimensions of security. We highly appreciate the fact that the last economic forum of the OSCE was devoted to such a crucial issue as the security aspects of energy development in the OSCE region.

In conclusion, I would like to express our conviction that our changing reality proves the need to enhance regular collaboration between the United Nations and the

OSCE in many areas of security. We hope that the General Assembly draft resolution on this item, of which the Republic of Moldova is a sponsor, will give a new, important thrust to the implementation of practical measures generated by cooperation between two important pillars of international security.

Finally, on behalf of my Government, I would like to thank the Government of Poland for having done a very efficient job as Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE for 1998 and to express our appreciation to the Polish delegation and, personally, to its Ambassador. We look forward to close cooperation with the delegation of the next Chairman-in-Office, Norway.

Mr. Abelian (Armenia): Allow me first of all to take this opportunity to welcome Mr. Giancarlo Aragona, Secretary-General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

The dramatic changes that the world has experienced during recent decades have created new opportunities for cooperation among nations while also posing new threats. This dichotomy makes cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations all the more the urgent, in order both to seize emerging opportunities and to meet the challenges facing the world community.

Ten years ago, when the communist system collapsed, many small and medium-sized countries, such as Armenia, could have been left in a political and security vacuum. The OSCE had the vision and the leadership to include those countries in its structure, and thus provide a small country like Armenia the opportunity to anchor itself in the community of European nations in accordance with long-established political and social values. While we hope this integration process will be an ongoing, comprehensive one, we consider that engagement represents both challenges and opportunities.

We support advancing the role of the OSCE as a major forum for addressing the challenges in the region through preventive diplomacy, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. Strengthening the role of the OSCE will enable it to better assume its responsibilities as a regional organization within the terms of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. The strength and attraction of the OSCE lies in the fact that it was formed as a community of shared values. It was this promise and our commitment to these values that brought us together in that organization. Indeed, our membership in the OSCE places responsibilities and obligations on us to meet certain demands and to reach standards which also correspond to our national interests.

Today, as some long-suppressed conflicts surface, we note with satisfaction that the OSCE is willing to rise to the challenge and to explore new territory. In its pursuit of finding solutions or managing crises, the OSCE, a complex multinational Organization, often needs to reconcile principles and norms that may not always appear, prima facie, to be compatible.

One of those conflicts is that of Nagorny Karabakh, which can undoubtedly be considered as one of the challenges facing the OSCE today. The ceasefire established in 1994 between the conflicting parties has put an end to the fighting. However, the issue of Nagorny Karabakh — the first to emerge in Europe after the collapse of the Berlin Wall — remains unresolved. We appreciate and highly commend the renewed efforts of the co-Chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Conference to reach a peaceful resolution acceptable to all the parties to the conflict. It has always been Armenia's position that there can only be a political solution to this conflict and that the solution is to be based on a mutual compromise. On the basis of this belief and on the willingness to establish durable and lasting peace and stability in the region, Armenia and Nagorny Karabakh have agreed to the proposal of the co-Chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Conference to start negotiations on the basis of the proposals of the co-Chairmen. However, Azerbaijan did not meet Armenia, Nagorny Karabakh and the co-Chairmen halfway. No durable and lasting solution can be found if one of the sides comes out a loser in this game. That is why we believe that each side has to give up something, in order to get everything, for everyone, forever.

The renewed hope that the revitalized efforts of the co-Chairmen could bring us one step closer to a final solution of the conflict unfortunately disappeared when Azerbaijan refused to accept the proposal of the co-Chairmen. It is our strong belief that such a major draft resolution on the issue of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe has to take account of the milestones that have been passed but must in no way do any harm.

In connection with the amendment proposed by Azerbaijan and contained in document A/53/L.61, I have to state that it is one-sided and biased and that it would impose a compulsory framework with which Armenia cannot agree. As an obvious attempt to predetermine the outcome of negotiations, this amendment in fact rejects the language proposed by the Chairman-in-Office. Because it would allow emotions to prevail and would thus create a more complicated situation, the proposed amendment makes us strongly doubt the seriousness of Azerbaijan's statements that it is interested in the resolution of the conflict.

To conclude, I express our support for the draft resolution introduced by the Chairman-in-Office and contained in document A/53/L.60. Allow me to express our appreciation to the Permanent Representative of Poland and his delegation for the excellent work done during Poland's term as Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE. We look forward to working closely with the delegation of Norway, the incoming Chairman-in-Office.

Ms. Arystanbekova (Kazakhstan): The delegation of Kazakhstan would like to express its appreciation to the Secretary-General for preparing the report on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) (A/53/672). We note with satisfaction the increased cooperation between the two organizations, and we welcome the steps taken over the past year to improve the coordination of their activities.

We note with appreciation the active work of the delegation of Poland, the country holding the chairmanship-in-office of the OSCE, and of Ambassador Eugeniusz Wyzner. I should also like on behalf of the delegation of Kazakhstan to welcome the Secretary-General of the OSCE, Mr. Giancarlo Aragona.

Kazakhstan became a participant in the OSCE in January 1992, with a view to ensuring our country's security on the basis of the fundamental principles of the organization contained in the Helsinki Final Act and the other documents of the OSCE. An important trend which attracted Kazakhstan's attention is the construction of a new architecture for security in Europe. Kazakhstan welcomes the efforts of the OSCE in that direction.

Despite the existing differences as to approach, we are convinced that the Charter on European Security is a document which covers practically all the key aspects of security in Europe. On the whole, our response to the list of components of the Charter presented by the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Poland, Mr. Bronislaw Geremek, is positive.

In today's multipolar world, the growing cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE over the broad spectrum of the activities of the two organizations is becoming enormously significant. This is true above all in relation to activities on early warning and preventive diplomacy, crisis management, arms control and disarmament and post-conflict rehabilitation, and also in support of the processes of economic development and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. As the Secretary-General's report makes apparent, the partnership between the two organizations in all these aspects of international activity is facilitating increasingly well coordinated action by the United Nations and the OSCE and is broadening the arsenal of effective mechanisms available to them for solving specific problems. In this connection, we note with satisfaction the regular meetings held by the Secretary-General of the United Nations both with the Chairman-in-Office and with the Secretary-General of the OSCE, which facilitate the improved coordination of joint activities at the headquarters level and in the field.

Kazakhstan supports the further enhancement of cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE in peacekeeping, and greatly appreciates the role of the two organizations in settling conflicts in the countries that have formed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, in Albania and within the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Also important, in our view, is the increased cooperation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the OSCE. In this context, we welcome the signing of the memorandum of understanding on enhancement of cooperation between UNHCR and the OSCE secretariat and the development of partnership framework agreements between UNHCR and individual OSCE institutions.

Further concrete aspects of cooperation are the joint projects and joint action by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the OSCE on advancing the building of democratic institutions and good governance, the promotion of human rights and the establishment of a framework for donor coordination. The steps taken to enhance cooperation between the Economic Commission for Europe and the OSCE also merit support.

At the same time, in Kazakhstan's view, the growing cooperation between the United Nations and the

OSCE should not neglect so important a sphere of activity as the protection of the environment, which is one of the most vital aspects of regional and international security. We have persistently urged, and continue to urge, a strengthening of this aspect of OSCE activities, and we welcome in this connection the decision to establish in 1998 an office of OSCE coordinator for economic and environmental activities. Kazakhstan, which attaches great importance to the problems of overcoming the consequences of the environmental disasters in the Central Asia region, is prepared to continue to take an active part in the various forms of economic and environmental action undertaken by the OSCE.

The world today is becoming an integrated and interdependent system. No international organization is capable of countering alone the multifaceted threats to stability. Accordingly, Kazakhstan believes that there is a need to develop a security platform that will take account of the Eurasian factor and of the capabilities of the Central Asian countries in strengthening security in the context of cooperation with the OSCE. Mutual understanding between East and West offers excellent prospects, of which advantage should be taken for the benefit of our countries and our peoples.

A concrete contribution by Kazakhstan to the strengthening of regional stability was the discharge by our country, together with Ukraine and Belarus, of the obligation to remove all nuclear warheads from our territories. The declaration adopted at the Lisbon summit of the OSCE noted that this was a historic contribution to reducing the nuclear threat and to the creation of a common security space in Europe.

Kazakhstan is consistently working to strengthen security and stability at the regional level. We note with satisfaction in this connection that the initiative by the President of Kazakhstan, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbaev, for the convening of a Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia, which he first put forward at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, is acquiring practical outlines and is becoming a real factor in international life. This initiative is supported by the OSCE, whose representatives invariably participate as observers in the meetings of the States participating in the Conference, which are held in Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan attaches great importance to the United Nations-OSCE projects aimed at promoting the establishment of democratic institutions and good governance and at monitoring elections. Seven years ago, we made the choice in favour of democracy and an open society, and we are now taking concrete steps to intensify democratic reforms.

On 30 September this year, the President of Kazakhstan, in his message to the people of the country, set out the main directions for the democratization of society at the threshold of the twenty-first century. This programme covers such important areas as elections, political parties, parliament, civil society, the judicial system and the mass media. The raising of democracy to the level of State policy, something unprecedented in the history of Kazakhstan, is a breakthrough in the establishment of a civil society.

The Government of Kazakhstan is actively promoting the development of a Central Asian component in the work of the OSCE. The frequent visits to Kazakhstan by the leadership of the OSCE, the conferences and seminars held jointly with various institutions of the organization and the provision of technical and expert assistance in a wide range of activities facilitated the signing in Oslo, Norway, on 3 December this year, of a memorandum of understanding between the Government of Kazakhstan and the OSCE on the opening of an OSCE centre in Almaty. We are grateful for this decision on the opening of the OSCE centre, which is to take place early in 1999.

Another important bilateral instrument that was signed last week, in the course of the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs in Oslo, is the memorandum of understanding between the Government of Kazakhstan and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

We note with satisfaction the growing interest of the OSCE in the Central Asia region, and we welcome the further development of cooperation between the countries of the region and the organization.

Kazakhstan greatly appreciates the role and contribution of the United Nations and the OSCE in solving urgent regional and international problems. We express the hope that the strengthening of cooperation between the two organizations will promote the cause of the maintenance of international peace and security and make provision for the humanitarian aspects of security and development, including respect for human rights and the development of democratic institutions.

Kazakhstan, as a sponsor, fully supports the draft resolution that has been submitted in document A/53/L.60.

The President (*interpretation from Spanish*): In accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/5 of 13 October 1993, I now call on the Secretary-General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Mr. Giancarlo Aragona.

Mr. Aragona (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe): It gives me great pleasure to address the General Assembly and to brief members on the highlights of the cooperation between the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations in 1998. Let me state at the outset that considerable progress has been made in this field, as the report of Secretary-General Kofi Annan illustrates (A/53/672).

Mr. Jemat (Brunei Darussalam), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Since I attended the meeting of regional organizations that the Secretary-General called in New York in July, both our activities and our cooperation with the United Nations have developed in significant ways, reflecting concrete needs on the ground.

In his message to the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting, which was held in Oslo on 2 and 3 December, Secretary-General Kofi Annan indeed described the OSCE as the United Nations major regional partner in the wider Europe. During the Oslo Council meeting, the Foreign Ministers discussed the OSCE's contribution to European security and the role of the organization in the emerging non-hierarchical, complementary and mutually beneficial partnership among different organizations and institutions.

Before I move on to discuss our cooperation in the field, and in particular our cooperation in Kosovo, let me describe an important development that reflected the deepening of relations between our two organizations, namely, the conclusion of memorandums of understanding and exchanges of letters between the OSCE and United Nations agencies. Two areas have provided the focal points of cooperation between the OSCE and the United Nations. The first is the nexus between security, migration and displacement. The second is human rights. As Mr. Petrovsky, Under-Secretary-General and Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, underlined in his much appreciated recent address to the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna,

> "further elaboration of modalities to enhance cooperation between the world's sole global Organization and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe ... is essential — not only to alleviate human suffering in areas of crisis but to promote our shared commitment to democracy and social and economic progress".

In recognition of the significance of the security/refugees nexus, I concluded in October a memorandum of understanding with High Commissioner Ogata on the enhancement of cooperation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the OSCE secretariat. This agreement was inspired by the excellent interaction in the field and by the concrete mechanisms already in use — for instance, better exchange of information, designation of liaison officers, cross-representation at relevant meetings, joint assessment of situations of common concern, coherence of approach in the field and the possibility of holding target-oriented meetings. The increasingly close cooperation between the High Commissioner for Refugees and the OSCE is a recognition of the critical linkage between migration, displacement and security issues.

The OSCE and the United Nations undertook further steps to cooperate closely in the field of promotion and protection of human rights. In June 1998, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). In it, the two institutions have committed themselves to strengthening cooperation in supporting national human rights institutions, human rights education and the human rights of women. Regular contacts exist also between the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the High Commissioner on National Minorities, as well as the OSCE missions.

Significantly, international organizations and institutions were drawn into the work undertaken in the context of the security model. At my recommendation, at a special informal meeting of the OSCE Security Model Committee in October, representatives of United Nations agencies participated actively, presenting their views on the Platform for Cooperative Security. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNHCR, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization put forward constructive and pragmatic visions and ideas on further cooperation with our organization, for which we are grateful and which we will be using in the context of our deliberation of the Document-Charter on European Security, as well as in our current efforts to strengthen cooperation.

Let me turn to the Kosovo Verification Mission. As the Ministers declared at Oslo, it is the largest and most difficult operation ever put into the field by the OSCE and marks the international community's recognition of the Organization's developing expertise and potential to contribute to security. In his statement to the Oslo Ministerial meeting, the United Nations Secretary-General applauded "the enthusiasm and courage with which [the OSCE] is braving new challenges".

In Oslo, the Foreign Ministers agreed that the establishment of the Kosovo Verification Mission opened a new stage in the development of the Organization's operational mechanisms for conflict-prevention and conflict-management activities. They stated that the Mission's success will require effective cooperation with other intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations. Indeed, the need to cooperate with other international institutions to find a solution to the Kosovo crisis has been recognized since the beginning and was incorporated in the planning of the Mission from the start.

The interplay between the United Nations and OSCE, as well as among other international organizations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), in the period leading up to the agreement on the establishment of the Kosovo Verification Mission is an example of the coordination of efforts on the part of the international community.

Significantly, the Mission was authorized by the Security Council and will be verifying compliance by all parties in Kosovo with Security Council resolution 1199 (1998). It will be reporting instances of progress or non-compliance, among others, to the Security Council. As Secretary-General Kofi Annan recommended to the Security Council, "clear channels of communication between us" should be developed, thus avoiding the need for "a parallel United Nations political presence" in Kosovo. It is a good approach. The OSCE is determined to play fully its role as a regional arrangement in the sense of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Kosovo Verification Mission will also assist the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other international organizations in facilitating the return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes, and the provision to them of facilitative humanitarian assistance by Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Serbian and Kosovo authorities, as well as humanitarian organizations and non-governmental organizations. Thanks to the more secure environment provided by the deployment of the Kosovo Diplomatic Observer Mission and the first elements of the Kosovo Verification Mission, Kosovo Albanians have started to go back to their homes, and humanitarian agencies have been able to resume their activities. Our first objective — preventing a humanitarian catastrophe during the winter — should therefore be accomplished.

Representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNDP, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia participated in the target-oriented meeting on the human dimension aspect of OSCE's activities in Kosovo, held in Warsaw on 5 November. During that meeting, it was emphasized that coordination mechanisms and a coordination centre within the Kosovo Verification Mission should ensure good cooperation and complementarity between all international organizations involved.

The deployment of the Mission is going according to plan and is compatible with the absorption capacity of a region where the logistical constraints are obvious. Together with the Kosovo Diplomatic Observer Mission members, who will be progressively merged into the Verification Mission, the Mission's strength is currently about 700 people. The first of the five regional centres is fully staffed. By the end of January, all centres will be operational and the full strength of the Mission reached.

Training of the first verifiers started two weeks ago. I wish here to thank all the United Nations agencies which participated in the preparation of the background documentation for the training, in particular in the field of human rights, and have provided personnel to participate in the briefings. This is a concrete application of the strategy for training developed this year by the OSCE secretariat, which seeks to benefit from the experience of other international organizations and to conduct joint actions with them.

To succeed, the Kosovo Verification Mission expects the contribution of other organizations. I am confident that we can count on the full support of the United Nations.

After Kosovo, the OSCE will never be the same. The operations in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia have put us on the map; the Kosovo Mission takes us to another dimension. Our operation in Kosovo and the shape that cooperation with other international organizations takes in the field will redefine the organization and will decisively influence the practical functioning of the European security architecture.

But Kosovo is not the only place where significant changes in cooperation and coordination of activities with other international organizations are taking place at an ever-increasing pace. In Croatia, the OSCE Mission has over the past year assumed vital tasks from the United Nations following the expiration on 15 January 1998 of the mandate of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium. The OSCE also took on the unprecedented role of deploying civilian police monitors in the Croatian Danube region following the expiration of the mandate of the United Nations Police Support Group. The transition has been smooth — "seamless", as the Secretary-General's Representative qualified it — and interaction between the two organizations was excellent. I wish here to thank the United Nations, which has contributed significantly to this result.

It was agreed at Oslo that "the participating States will enhance the capacity of the OSCE with regard to police operations" and that to this end, close cooperation with the United Nations would be established.

The OSCE presence in Albania continues to be an excellent example of OSCE's ability to cooperate with international organizations. OSCE continues, for the second year now, to offer a flexible coordination framework for the other organizations present in that country.

Recently the OSCE has been able to go a step further. We initiated, and co-chaired, the Group of Friends of Albania, which held its inaugural meeting in Brussels on 30 September 1998. The OSCE will provide the overall framework for the Group and will chair, together with the European Union, the plenary sessions. The Group is open to countries and international institutions that wish to actively support Albania in its development efforts. The Group should, *inter alia*, provide a forum for mutual information, consultation and coordination on political, financial, economic and security-related matters with respect to Albania.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, our cooperation with the United Nations has further deepened in the past year. The United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina supported OSCE election activities in September. It has been working closely with our Mission on media matters. We have worked hand-in-hand on monitoring and promoting human rights in the country, and the two organizations have also been cooperating in the establishment of a returnee monitoring framework.

Close cooperation marks the two organizations' involvement in Georgia. The OSCE deployed, in accordance with the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and OSCE, two members of its mission in Georgia to the office for the protection of human rights in Abkhazia. In Oslo, the Ministers, in a decision on Georgia

> "underlined the primary responsibility of the United Nations for advancing the process in Abkhazia".

They also asked

> "the Chairman-in-Office to conduct with the United Nations Secretary-General, and within the OSCE, appropriate consultations exploring the utility of the establishment of an OSCE office in the Gali district".

The OSCE and the United Nations, as guarantor organizations, have continued to provide assistance to the parties in the implementation of the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan. The United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan and the OSCE mission cooperate closely on a number of issues, such as promotion of human rights and democratic institution-building, protection of refugees and internally displaced persons, assisting in drafting amendments to the Constitution and electoral assistance. The work of both of our organizations in Tajikistan is an important contribution to the stability of the region, and it takes place under difficult conditions. It was with regret that we learned about the killings of United Nations officials in August of this year.

A new area of cooperation, and one that we believe to be of great importance, is gender mainstreaming. A regional equal- opportunity project of the OSCE and

UNDP has been proposed recently. It focuses on equal-opportunity legislation and the creation of a body of ombudspersons and an equal-opportunity assembly in Central Asia. Our liaison office in Central Asia, ODIHR and the UNDP regional and national Gender in Development programmes will be working together to support the five Central Asian States in their efforts to introduce equal-opportunity policies.

The OSCE is in fact expanding its presence in the region with the opening of centres in Almaty, Ashgabat and Bishkek, which I am sure will offer new opportunities for cooperation with the United Nations. I signed last week in Oslo a memorandum of understanding with the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the three countries concerned, and this step will bring us closer to our objective.

Let me conclude by expressing my satisfaction with the expanding and intensifying web of relations between the United Nations and the OSCE. These relations reflect our conviction that the promotion of peace and security in Europe is a task that can be accomplished only on the basis of cooperation among all relevant international organizations.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item.

I call on the representative of Armenia on a point of order.

Mr. Abelian (Armenia): My delegation would like to make a motion for no action, under rule 74 of the General Assembly's rules of procedure, on the Azerbaijani delegation's proposed amendment, contained in document A/53/L.61, to the draft resolution entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe", for the following reasons.

The common interpretations and definitions used by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) are based on the decisions taken by consensus during negotiations between the delegations of the OSCE member States during the meetings at various levels. They express the common position of all member States of the OSCE and are based on the awareness of the necessity to guarantee balance and objectiveness in the OSCE Minsk Group mediation efforts.

The amendment proposed by Azerbaijan is one-sided and biased, and it imposes a compulsory framework to which Armenia cannot agree. Being an obvious attempt to predetermine the outcome of negotiations, this amendment in fact rejects the language proposed by the Chairman-in-Office. We view the preservation of the language presented by the Chairman-in-Office as an important issue. We see such an amendment as an inappropriate move, since the OSCE is the sole mandated and authoritative body dealing with the Nagorny Karabakh conflict.

The delegation of Armenia fully supports the draft resolution presented by the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, contained in document A/53/L.60. Therefore, my delegation regrets to state that Azerbaijan has failed to take into account the arguments I have just mentioned. The delegation of Armenia dissociates itself from any interpretation of language that contradicts the decisions agreed upon by consensus in the OSCE, among its members.

Having said that, I would like to make a motion for no action on the proposed amendment by the delegation of Azerbaijan, contained in document A/53/L.61.

The Acting President: The representative of Armenia has moved, within the terms of rule 74 of the rules of procedure, that no action be taken on the amendment contained in document A/53/L.61.

Rule 74 states,

> "During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, two representatives may speak in favour of, and two against, the motion, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote."

The Acting President: I call on the representative of Azerbaijan.

Mr. Kouliev (Azerbaijan) (*interpretation from Russian*): As in the past two years, the delegation of Armenia is again using a procedural measure — a motion for no action — in an attempt to deprive us of our legitimate right to protect our highest national interests. The delegation of Azerbaijan categorically objects to this.

As we have repeatedly stated, Azerbaijan has never claimed, nor does it claim now, anyone else's territory; neither will it allow any other country to encroach upon its own territory. Today 20 per cent of our territory — not Armenia's territory — is occupied.

My country is fighting for a legitimate cause. It is defending its own sovereignty and its own territorial integrity. Therefore, we should not be deprived of our right to present an amendment for consideration by the General Assembly.

It is our hope that we will receive support from the General Assembly, which at its fifty-first and fifty-second sessions rejected this procedural measure.

We call upon Member States to maintain their consistent and principled position and to vote against the motion for no action that has been proposed by Armenia.

The Acting President: If no other member wishes to speak, I shall now put to the vote the motion submitted by the representative of Armenia that no action be taken on the amendment contained in document A/53/L.61.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:
Armenia

Against:
Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Djibouti, Egypt, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sudan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

Abstaining:
Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

The motion for no action on amendment A/53/L.61 was rejected by 32 votes to 1, with 96 abstentions.

[Subsequently, the delegation of Jordan informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote against.]

The Acting President: Since the motion for no action is not adopted, the Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/53/L.60 and on the amendment thereto contained in document A/53/L.61.

In accordance with rule 90 of the rules of procedure, the amendment is voted on first. The Assembly will therefore take a decision first on the amendment circulated in document A/53/L.61.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:
Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman,

Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Armenia

Abstaining:

Bahamas, Barbados, Benin, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Jamaica, Mali, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Vanuatu

The amendment was adopted by 114 votes to 1, with 20 abstentions.

[Subsequently, the delegations of Guyana and Jordan informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/53/L.60, as amended.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

None

Abstaining:

Armenia, China

Draft resolution A/53/L.60, as amended, was adopted by 143 votes to 0, with 2 abstentions (resolution 53/85).

[Subsequently, the delegations of Guyana, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

The Acting President: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of vote on the resolution just adopted.

May I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Wrabetz (Austria): The European Union regrets that it was not possible, as in some previous years, to adopt the resolution on this subject without a vote. The resolution is part of a series of resolutions dealing with cooperation between the United Nations and several international and regional organizations.

The Union would have preferred to focus the discussion of the topic on the strengthening of cooperation between the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations, and the improvement of coordination between the two organizations.

As regards the substance of the amendment proposed by the delegation of Azerbaijan, the European Union hopes that substantial progress can be made in finding a basis for a negotiated settlement to the conflict in Nagorny Karabakh which will be acceptable to all parties. We support the efforts of the OSCE in this respect and call on the parties to the conflict to engage in a meaningful dialogue on a political settlement of the conflict within the framework of the Minsk Conference.

The members of the European Union, as sponsors of the resolution, would have hoped to find consensus on operative paragraph 12, as originally proposed by the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE.

The amendment proposed by Azerbaijan, however, repeats the relevant formulations adopted by the General Assembly in previous years. The European Union therefore joined the co-Chairmen of the Minsk Conference in supporting the amendment contained in document A/53/L.61.

Mr. Abelian (Armenia): My delegation voted against the amendment proposed by the delegation of Azerbaijan and abstained in the voting on the resolution as a whole for the following reasons.

The initial proposal put forward by the Chairman-in-Office was highly balanced and dictated by the need to create a more favourable and unbiased environment in the peace process. The language proposed by the Chairman-in-Office reflected best the concerns and current situation in the negotiations on the Nagorny Karabakh issue. Unfortunately, trying to make this language any better could only make things worse for the whole negotiating process.

We were surprised to see that the States members of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), including the European Union members, voted in favour of the Azerbaijan amendment. It was our understanding that they were the co-sponsors of the resolution and we thought that they should be supportive of the text that they themselves presented, whereas today we had a situation in which the co-sponsors of the resolution voted to change their own text. In this respect, we were particularly disappointed by the decision of the co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group — France, the Russian Federation and the United States — to support this amendment. This position undermines and dismisses the initial proposal of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office.

We have always advocated a more flexible approach on the part of the OSCE, through the co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group, to try to reconcile seemingly incompatible principles and claims. We have always remained opposed to one-sided orthodoxy. That is why my Government, as well as the authorities of Nagorny Karabakh, considered the co-Chairmen's proposal a realistic effort in trying to address this issue. Unlike previous attempts, this time there was a realization of the fact that inflexible formulations would not be effective in moving forward the process for a negotiated settlement.

However, by rejecting the recent principles submitted by the OSCE, not taking a single step towards compromise and presenting the current amendment, which prejudges the whole notion of a negotiated settlement, for a third year in a row, Azerbaijan has shown neither the political will nor the disposition to take responsibilities for peace. The United Nations should not have second-guessed the language proposed by the Chairman-in-Office, since the OSCE is the sole mandated and authoritative body dealing with the Nagorny Karabakh problem. Those countries that voted in favour of this amendment have only encouraged Azerbaijan in its inflexible position. Moreover, the fact that the Minsk Group co-Chairmen, who are supposed to be neutral and unbiased mediators, voted in favour of the amendment can only be interpreted as another encouragement for Azerbaijan's uncompromising position.

Ms. Xiang Jiagu (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): The Chinese delegation endorses the further strengthening and enhancement of the cooperation between the United Nations system and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), so as to enable those two organizations to play a better and more constructive role in ensuring peace and security in Europe. On the basis of this position, the Chinese delegation either joined in the consensus or voted in favour of resolutions under this agenda item in previous sessions of the General Assembly.

However, we have noticed that new elements referring to the situation in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, were added to this year's resolution. Proceeding from its principled position on the question of Kosovo and its reservations on the relevant Security

Council resolutions on this topic, the Chinese delegation had difficulty in accepting the aforementioned elements. We put forward amendments to the sponsors that were not accepted. The Chinese delegation therefore abstained in the voting on this resolution.

At the same time, I wish to point out that the Chinese delegation had no difficulty with the other elements of the resolution, as amended.

The Acting President: May I take it that is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 36?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 3 *(continued)*

Credentials of representatives to the fifty-third session of the General Assembly

Special report of the Credentials Committee (A/53/726)

The Acting President: We will now resume our consideration of agenda item 3 to hear a statement by H.E. Mr. Hor Nam Hong, Minister of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia.

Mr. Hor (Cambodia) (*interpretation from French*): I feel joyful, proud and moved at this moment, as the delegation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, which I head, resumes its due place in this great family of the United Nations. At this happy moment, it is my privilege and honour to address this prestigious General Assembly. On behalf of the Royal Government and of the people of Cambodia, allow me to express to Mr. Opertti my warmest congratulations on his election to the presidency of the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and to convey my deepest thanks to him, his colleagues, all the agencies and bodies of the United Nations — in particular the Credentials Committee — and the representatives of all the friendly countries here, who have made a valuable contribution to the just decision to restore the legitimate right of the Royal Government of Cambodia to assume its duties as a representative of a State Member of the United Nations since 1955.

It is true that the road to a glowing future remains long, painful and strewn with obstacles. It is nonetheless paved with hope and our will to see our homeland resume its deserved place in the concert of nations, progress and develop. After lively campaigns waged by 39 political parties of every stripe, the general elections held in Cambodia on 26 July 1998 enjoyed massive voter participation — more than 90 per cent of registered voters participated — and broad coverage provided by more than 800 international observers from more than 30 countries and by 20,000 national observers. The results of the elections were described as just, fair and credible by the Joint International Observer Group, under United Nations coordination, and by the international community.

A new coalition Government has been formed after some brief difficulties. This was achieved through the very lofty and fortunate initiative of His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia and through the spirit of compromise and national reconciliation demonstrated by the two political parties receiving the most votes, the Cambodian People's Party and Funcinpec. In other words, I can assert that truth always wins out in the end. It is on the basis of that ineluctable reality, the hallmark of the unstoppable nature of just causes, that the Cambodian people is finally emerging from its long ordeal.

The new Royal Government of Cambodia is committed to fulfilling its obligations as a State Member of the United Nations family and to implementing the political programme drafted by the coalition and the National Assembly. We have an enormous and long-term task ahead to rebuild our nation in the peace and serenity we have regained.

(*spoke in English*)

We are anxious at this moment to reaffirm our determination to preserve the fundamental factors in order to guarantee peace, stability and the development of our country and to contribute to efforts for the establishment of a just, global and lasting peace, political stability and active cooperation in the South-East Asia region.

We also endeavour to strengthen the close ties that unite us with our neighbours, to which we are bound by mutual interests and fruitful cooperation. In this spirit, Cambodia, mindful of its rich cultural heritage and devoted to its convictions and its orientations, hopes that it can join the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) family of countries at its sixth summit, in

Hanoi, on the basis of strict mutual respect for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and the non-interference in each other's internal affairs. It is time to join together, without exception, to build South-East Asia into a region of peace, stability and prosperity. The Kingdom of Cambodia, one of the South-East Asian countries, believes that today there is no longer an obstacle to its admission into that regional organization.

It is our pleasure today to reiterate our high appreciation for the active role that the United Nations has played in settling the problems of peace, security and development in the world, and to pay homage to Mr. Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General, for his noble and tireless activities in the service of many countries and peoples that are confronted with serious difficulties. We Cambodians will never forget what the United Nations achieved, with tenacity, generosity and talent, in order to offer to Cambodia and its people the good fortune of regaining peace and stability within an indispensable national reconciliation. While we are only at the beginning of the rehabilitation and development process, the Kingdom of Cambodia is invigorated by the firm will to continue to cooperate closely with the United Nations, as in the past, to reinforce peace, democracy and respect for human rights on the basis of respect for sovereignty and national independence. In this regard, our Government has decided to extend the activities of the office of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights in Phnom Penh until the year 2000, whose mandate is to assist the Royal Government of Cambodia to improve all conditions connected with respect for human rights, and we have expressed our wish to widen our cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme and other specialized agencies in the interest of economic and social development.

Finally, allow me once again to address my very cordial thanks to the United Nations, the European Union, ASEAN, Japan, China, Russia and the Friends of Cambodia for their preponderant part in the process to allow Cambodia to regain stability and the path of prosperity and, in particular, to finally be once again here among the representatives of this Assembly.

The Acting President: We have thus concluded our consideration of this stage of agenda item 3.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.